

SPEECH BY: DATO' SERI DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
(PRIME MINISTER)

EVENT: THE OPENING CEREMONY OF THE NEW CHANCERY AND
RESIDENSE COMPLEX OF THE MALAYSIA EMBASSY

VENUE: TOKYO

DATE: 24 DEC 1991

TIME:

Your Excellencies
Distinguished Guests
Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my pleasure to warmly welcome all of you present to the official opening of the new Chancery and Residence complex of the Malaysian Embassy in Tokyo. We are grateful for your friendship and support and we are happy that you are able to join us at this auspicious ceremony.

2. I am honoured to officiate the opening of this new complex, the latest and most costly of all the overseas missions owned by the Malaysian Government. Its construction was made possible through the sale of our former Ambassador's residence and land in Hon-Komagome in December 1988. This new complex as well as the 24 staff apartments in Kami Meguro were built at a cost of slightly over 6 billion Yen (M\$114 million).

3. Although it seems very different to be in this new building, we are really still in the same place in Shibuya. Our first Embassy structure was here on this site from 1970. Then in 1988 we began in earnest to plan a better and bigger Embassy to meet with the greater amount of work. The old Embassy was then demolished to make way for the complex which you see here. This growth reflects the importance of Japan in our bilateral relations and this modern Embassy is a symbol of our cooperation and friendship.

4. The construction of the Complex is a source of pride for us. Its design, incorporating a harmonious blend of traditional Malay, Islamic and Japanese architecture, will, I hope, contribute to the architectural diversity of Tokyo, thus further enhancing its cosmopolitan character.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. Malaysia and Japan have always enjoyed warm and friendly relations. Japan is not only Malaysia's largest trading partner and foreign investor, but has also inspired us in our effort towards economic development. Japan almost without exception is a beacon of inspiration to the developing countries in our region. Hence we would encourage Japan to play a leadership role in the economic development of the Asia Pacific region.

6. I have faith that the good relationship between Japan and Malaysia will continue to grow and the new Chancery which we see today will be used as a vital facility for that relationship. The Embassy will house the many Malaysian Government agencies, now scattered throughout Tokyo, and thus further upgrade its services to the Japanese public as well as Malaysians in Japan.

7. It is now my pleasure to declare this Complex open.