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**SPEECH BY YANG AMAT BERBAHAGIA
DATIN SERI DR SITI HASMAH BT HAJI MOHD ALI
AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF
BADMINTON MALAYSIA OPEN 1998
AT THE EQUATORIAL HOTEL, PULAU PINANG
ON TUESDAY, 30 JUNE 1998
AT 8.00 P.M.**

Syukur Alhamdulillah! Syukur kepada Ilahi atas kurniaNya dapat kita berkumpul dengan baik di Pulau Pinang dari berbagai negara yang jauh dan dekat.

2. Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada YB Dr Goh Cheng Teik dan Persatuan Badminton Pulau Pinang kerana mengundang saya untuk merasmikan kejohanan Malaysia pada malam ini.

3. Let me thank Dr. Goh Cheng Teik and other members of the Penang Badminton Association for inviting me to attend this dinner and to declare this international badminton championship open.

4. Malaysia Open '98 is an historic event for Penang because this is the first time in the history of this State that an IBF - recognised world badminton championship is being held here. For badminton fans in Penang and the neighbouring States of Perlis, Kedah and Perak, it will be a real treat to watch the top badminton players of the world play live! Moreover, Malaysia Open '98 will be held in the Penang International Sport Arena, a brand-new sports' stadium built at a cost of RM 110,000.00 by the State Government of Penang.

5. I hope Malaysia Open '98 will give a big boost to badminton in this part of the country. Nothing gives me greater pleasure than to see more and more Malaysians of all ages and from all walks of life play badminton regularly and keep themselves fit and healthy.

6. Let me wish all players every success in this championship. Winning is important but equally important is the promotion of goodwill and friendship through sports. Every badminton player is an ambassador or ambassadress for his or her country when he or she enters the court.

7. And now, it is my great pleasure to declare Malaysia Open '98 officially open.
