

**By : DATUK SERI SYED HAMID ALBAR**  
**Venue : WASHINGTON D.C**  
**Date : 15 MAY 2002**  
**Title : OCCASION OF THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE NEW CHANCERY BUILDING**

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohammad

Yang Amat Berbahagia Datin Seri Dr. Siti Hasmah bt Mohd Ali

Excellencies

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum

Good afternoon

1. Let me join Ambassador Ghazzali in thanking all of you for your kind presence at the official opening of the new building of the Malaysian Embassy in Washington.

2. It is the policy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to acquire its own Chancery buildings and official residences abroad as it helps to project Malaysia's identity and image overseas. We are happy that the Treasury has been very supportive of Ministry's requests for development funds. In terms of development projects, the Ministry has a number of ongoing projects including in Brunei, Beijing, Kuwait and Singapore while we have successfully completed projects in Bangkok, Berlin, Harare and Stockholm.

3. I had no hesitation on the choice of the location for this new premises when I visited the site a few years ago. It is located in the prestigious diplomatic enclave of this great dynamic and vibrant city. Since the acquisition of the land, we had spent some time in planning this project before the actual building commenced. This is the third Chancery building which we have occupied in Washington since the establishment of diplomatic relations with the United States in 1957. This building is four times the size of our former Chancery in Massachusetts Avenue. With a building of this size, I believe we have finally found a permanent home for the Embassy in D.C.

4. The need for bigger office space is certainly a clear reflection of the growing bilateral ties between Malaysia and the United States. It is also a testimony to our faith and confidence of our future relations with the United States. With the new premises, the Malaysian Embassy in Washington will continue to play an even more

active role in strengthening Malaysia – US ties. It will remain the focal point for the advancement of our ties in all areas of mutual endeavour – political, economic, cultural, social and people-to-people contacts as well.

5. The successful completion of this building project is a reflection of excellent team-work involving everyone associated with this project. The co-operation between the project team from Malaysia and the project partners in the United States speaks well of the final product. What we see today is the combined outcome of Malaysian and American ideas and influences.

6. While the local contribution of our U.S partners are no less important in terms of the building structure and the accompanying equipment, I must however draw your attention to products that have been sourced from Malaysia such as the wood carvings and paneling, wall paper, wall lights, chandeliers, carpets, curtains, etched door, and all furniture items. All these items were either assembled or installed by artisans brought over from Malaysia, demonstrating in a small way the range of our skills, expertise and manufactured products.

7. Before I conclude, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my sincere thanks to everyone involved in this project both from the United States and Malaysia for a job well done.

8. It is now my great pleasure to invite the Hon. Prime Minister to address us and to officially declare open the new Embassy of Malaysia in Washington, D.C.

Thank you.