

## **CLOSING ADDRESS PUTRAJAYA FORUM 2014**

15/04/2014

SERI PASIFIC HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished guests,

Speakers and forum participants,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam 1 Malaysia

Alhamdulillah, praise be to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala for with His Blessing and guidance we are able to meet in this closing ceremony of Putrajaya Forum 2014.

Firstly, let me thank the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS), the organisers of the 3rd PUTRAJAYA FORUM for giving me the opportunity to once again deliver the closing address of this prestigious forum. Looking at the main theme of Strengthening Security and Regional Stability, I have no doubts that the forum this year has managed to engage equally a variety of experts and academicians to address the importance of not only strengthening the regional security but maintaining the stability which we are currently enjoying. I am therefore pleased to be here again in the presence of local and international distinguished speakers and moderators as well as all participants here.

The Security Scenario in the Region

I recall in my closing address of the 2nd PUTRAJAYA FORUM in April 2012, where I mentioned the threats of terrorism and the many forms of security threats particularly from the non-traditional ones affecting the security and stability of the region then. Today, there are still several security issues that remain as a challenge in our efforts for continued stability in this region. Some of the tensions in this region and beyond are the legacies of history whilst some in particular, territorial claims are still being pursued by countries in this

region.

Meanwhile, the geopolitics of the region are also changing rapidly with the US and China at the forefront of what can be termed as a 'contest for primacy.' The South China Sea disputes and the intercession of 'outside' interests makes maintaining the security and stability of the region more complex. These possible causes of conflict require more than the diplomatic efforts of our governments. Sincere efforts to diffuse tensions may now require a multitude of engagements as well as deft negotiation processes by the leaders of all the nations involved.

## ASEAN and Regional Cooperation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have always stressed the importance of regional cooperation in particular ASEAN, as well as the networks of diplomatic relationships which spans across the globe to collectively address emerging security challenges. I am sure such effective and close cooperation will continue to generate the ability to identify and address threats of any sorts which may be detrimental to the regional safety and stability. As such, I am comforted that the world is not only recognising the importance of ASEAN as a platform for maintaining peace and stability amongst its members, but as a forum for engagements with regional powers such as China, India, Japan and Korea. It is a known fact that since the formation of ASEAN in 1967, there had not been any open conflicts amongst its member countries. The ASEAN way of resolving problems and crises through consensus and mutual respect have indeed gone a long way towards avoiding unnecessary conflicts and tensions.

When Malaysia chairs ASEAN in 2015, there will indeed be more challenges we need to face collectively amongst the ASEAN family and beyond. As an example, The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) which now consists of 27 member countries continues to complement the various bilateral and multilateral arrangements in place and is indeed an avenue in which addressing security threats in the region can be continuously reviewed and upgraded.

## Malaysia's Role in ASEAN

Malaysia is also vying for a place in the one non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council next year with the candidature theme of 'Peace and Security

through Moderation'. This augurs well for ASEAN and countries of the region as I am sure we will be able to speak and give our views by taking into account the importance of diplomacy and moderation in all aspects of international relations. Maintaining security and stability of this region therefore will largely rely on continued consultations and solidarity in addressing a security threat, common virtues which we in the ASEAN family have always espoused.

At this moment, all of you are aware of the difficult times we are facing in the tragic case of MH 370 which has affected the nation so profoundly. This incident not only brought the whole nation and region together, but instilled the camaraderie we have had amongst the ASEAN members and beyond. Twenty six nations assisted in the Search and Recovery operations and coordinating their efforts which we have had to undertake involved many new experiences. I believe the trust, respect, transparency displayed and above all, the close cooperation forged amongst us will put us in good stead in future when faced with a security challenge. The close cooperation garnered from this incident I am sure will contribute to the overall stability of the region in future particularly so if our bid to be a non-permanent member in the United Nations Security Council is endorsed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am happy that moving on from the previous forum, we have gathered over the past two days to discuss and address potential threats emanating from non-traditional methods and, above all from non-state actors. I am also pleased that in one of the sessions; the rethinking of Military Doctrine is also being considered as I believe that the military of any country remains one of the most effective means of addressing a security threat. Therefore, doctrines that are being formulated must take into account the growing non-traditional security threats which may need a different approach to the more conventional art of war fighting. As proven before in our very own history of defeating the threats of communism, a holistic and whole-of-country approach involving the security forces and entire population itself must be integrated to defeat a common enemy.

I believe this forum has provided us with the right platform to share a common desire in strengthening cooperation and initiatives that promotes greater security and stability of the region. I have no doubts that as this forum matures into one of international stature, it will complement other security dialogues in the region as a respected discussion where security initiatives are constantly

developed to address emerging threats.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Defence Minister YB Dato' Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and the Malaysian Institute of Defence and Security (MiDAS) for successfully convening this forum. On the same note, I thank all speakers, moderators and participants for your kind participation the past two days. To our international friends, I hope you will find time to visit and savour the sights and sounds of Kuala Lumpur as well as the gastronomic delights Malaysia has to offer. With that, I hereby officially close the 3rd PUTRAJAYA FORUM 2014 and look forward to the 4th PUTRAJAYA FORUM scheduled in 2016.

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Thank you.