

SPEECH BY THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE
OPENING OF THE NEW PENANG TERMINALS AND
FERRY SERVICE AT THE PIER, PENANG ON
23 SEPTEMBER, 1959

Mr. Chairman, Members of the Port Commission, Your Excellency the Governor of Penang, Your Excellencies, Honourable Ministers, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am grateful to you Mr. Chairman, and to your Commissioners, for your kindness in inviting me to be here today to take part in a national event of first importance, the opening of two new ferry terminals and the service of new ferries across this historic waterway between the island and the mainland.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the very great pleasure and the honour of performing the formal act of starting the service.

I do so with a very personal interest because I belong in this part of the country, and I have had frequent experience of waiting to get on the ferry and to get across either way, particularly in those days after the war before I became Prime Minister.

I have very vivid recollections of the rainy and the hot days, and queues of cars waiting, sometimes a mile long. I can tell you that there is little pleasure to be had from sitting in a car while the sun beats down on the roof and cooking you inside.

This new service, I am very happy to know, will put an end to these difficulties of travel, by providing the most up to date facilities, overcoming the delays and accelerating the movement of people and traffic across the water. The new service will be a very real blessing to the thousands of people who travel daily to and from Penang. I am sure they will take real pride in the new vessels and their modern system of propulsion and in the special facilities for movement of all types of vehicles you have so thoughtfully provided.

In the opening this new service, I am presiding at one of the very few occasions in which I know I will receive for what I am doing the

gratitude of all the people, no matter what their political beliefs may be, be they Alliance, the Socialist Front, the PMIP or the Progressive Party, or even the Communist Party – or even the thugs who want to make a quick get away.

I have been asked what name should be given to this new pier on the Penang side. Nothing pleases me more than to name it after the first man to become the Governor of Penang. (in saying this, we will have to overlook the Japanese time).

The Governor of Penang is now embarking on his third year of office as Governor. He is a man who has dedicated his life to the service of his country and his fellowmen, particularly as the Governor of this old Settlement. He has won the respect, and I may say, the affection of all, rich or poor alike.

As mark of respect for him and in appreciation of his outstanding services to the State of Penang, I take very great pleasure indeed in naming this pier Pengkalan Raja Uda.

Now I have to move across the other side of the Strait to officiate at a similar ceremony and name the pier at Butterworth.



Perdana Menteri Tunku Abd. Rahman bersama En. H.J. Shailes, Pengerusi Suruhanjaya Pelabuhan Pulau Pinang sewaktu beliau merasmikan pembukaan Terminal Feri Pulau Pinang yang baru pada 23 September, 1959.