

**PRIME MINISTER'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY
YB DATUK NUR JAZLAN BIN MOHAMED
DEPUTY MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS
AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF IMB INTERNATIONAL
MEETING ON GLOBAL PIRACY, ARMED ROBBERY
& MARITIME SECURITY ON
14 SEPTEMBER 2015
AT SHANGRI-LA HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR**

EXCELLENCIES,

DISTINGUISHED SPEAKERS, PARTICIPANTS, GUESTS,

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

**ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI WABARAKATUH
AND A VERY GOOD MORNING.**

**1. IT IS AN HONOUR FOR ME TO WELCOME ALL OF YOU
TO KUALA LUMPUR FOR THE INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME BUREAU'S FIRST INTERNATIONAL MEETING
ON GLOBAL PIRACY, ARMED ROBBERY AND MARITIME
SECURITY 2015.**

**2. GIVEN MALAYSIA'S MARITIME HERITAGE, I FIND
HOSTING THE MEETING HERE IN MALAYSIA TO BE MOST
FITTING INDEED.**

3. THE SECURITY AND SAFE PASSAGE OF OUR WATERS ARE UNDOUBTEDLY OF PARAMOUNT CONCERNS FOR A NATION SUCH AS MALAYSIA. AS A MAJOR MARITIME TRADING NATION, THE SEA HAS BEEN AND WILL ALWAYS REMAIN CRUCIAL TO MALAYSIA'S ECONOMY AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

4. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SEA TO MALAYSIA IS UNDERLINED BY THE FACT THAT AN ESTIMATED 95% OF THE NATION'S TRADE IS CARRIED VIA OCEAN-GOING VESSELS. THE WATERWAYS ARE AN INDISPENSIBLE ENABLER TO INTERNATIONAL TRADE, WHICH SERVES AS THE BACKBONE TO THE NATION'S ECONOMIC PROSPERITY.

5. IN TERMS OF GEOGRAPHY, MALAYSIA IS LOCATED ASTRIDE THE STRATEGIC INDO-ASIAN SEA LINES OF COMMUNICATIONS OR *SLOC*, BORDERING THE STRAITS OF MALACCA, THE SOUTH CHINA SEA AND THE SULU SULAWESI SEAS.

6. THE STRAITS OF MALACCA IS AN IMPORTANT TRADE ROUTE CONNECTING THE PACIFIC OCEAN AND THE INDIAN OCEAN. IT IS A CRUCIAL LINK FOR MAJOR ASIAN ECONOMIES SUCH AS INDIA, CHINA, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA AND JAPAN. WITH ONE THIRD OF THE WORLD'S TRADING GOODS PASSING THROUGH IT, IT IS THE SECOND BUSIEST WATERWAY AFTER THE STRAITS OF HORMUZ. IN ADDITION, THE SOUTH CHINA SEA IS AN IMPORTANT SLOC FOR WEST AND EAST MALAYSIA AND IS HOME TO MALAYSIA'S OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS INSTALLATIONS.

7. DUE TO THESE FACTORS THAT ARE OF STRATEGIC SIGNIFICANCE, MALAYSIA WILL COUNTINUE TO TAKE THE LEAD TO ENSURE THE MARITIME SECURITY AND SAFETY OF NAVIGATION IN THESE WATERS.

8. THIS BRINGS US TO OUR MAIN OBJECTIVE TODAY, WHICH IS TO ADDRESS THE MENACING ISSUES OF GLOBAL PIRACY, ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA AND OTHER MARITIME SECURITY THREATS.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

9. AS THE GLOBAL ECONOMY BECOMES MORE INTER-DEPENDANT, MORE AND MORE NATIONS RELY ON SEABORNE TRADE, AND THE GLOBAL GROWTH TREND IS NOW STANDING AT 3.5% TO 4% ANNUALLY. ANALYSTS PREDICT THAT THE CONTINUING RISE OF TRADE BLOCS WILL ALSO HELP TO BOOST SEABORNE TRADE ACTIVITY, WHICH WILL BE PARTICULARLY DOMINANT IN THE INTRA-EAST ASIA.

10. THEY INCLUDE TRADE BLOCS BETWEEN OCEANIA AND THE FAR EAST, THE FAR EAST AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE FAR EAST AND THE MIDDLE EAST. ASIA IS TOUTED TO BE A STRONG PLAYER IN GLOBAL SEABORNE TRADE IN THE NEXT TWO DECADES.

11. THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THESE COUNTRIES WILL BE RELIANT ON THE SAFE USE OF THE OCEANS AS A TRADE ROUTE. THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF THE SEA LANES OF COMMUNICATIONS WILL BE OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE TO SEAFARERS AND THOSE WHO DEPEND ON THE SEA TO EARN THEIR LIVING.

12. THEREFORE, PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AGAINST SHIPS BECOMES A GLOBAL CONCERN. IT AFFECTS THE FREEDOM OF SHIPPING AND THE SAFETY OF SEAFARERS.

13. PIRATE ATTACKS ALSO ENDANGER THE SAFETY OF FISHERMEN AND THE DELIVERY OF HUMANITARIAN AID. IT POSES A THREAT TO MARITIME INDUSTRIES SUCH AS PORTS AND TOURISM, THUS, HINDERING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF A COUNTRY AND ITS REGION.

14. HISTORICALLY, PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA ARE AS OLD AS HUMAN CIVILIZATION ITSELF. MARITIME CRIMES HAVE LONG EXISTED EVER SINCE MANKIND FIRST VENTURED INTO THE OCEANS TO CONDUCT TRADE AND COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES. THE EARLIEST RECORD OF PIRACY ACTIVITY OCCURRED IN THE 14TH CENTURY, DETAILING THE EXPLOITS OF THE SEA PEOPLE IN ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN. TODAY, IT REMAINS AS THE SINGLE MOST HEINOUS MARITIME SECURITY THREAT GLOBALLY AFFECTING VOYAGING SEAFARERS FROM THE CARRIBEAN SEA TO THE STRAITS OF MALACCA.

15. THE GROWING TREND OF SEA ROBBERY AND PIRACY RECENTLY IS A MAJOR CONCERN. IF THE TREND CONTINUES UNABATED, TRADE WILL BE IMMENSELY AFFECTED.

16. UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW, PIRACY HAS BEEN CLASSIFIED AS A UNIVERSAL CRIME, A *HOSTIS HUMANIS GENERIS* OR A CRIME AGAINST ALL MANKIND. NATIONS ALL AROUND THE WORLD HAVE THE OBLIGATION TO PUNISH THOSE WHO ENGAGE IN ILLEGAL MARITIME ACTIVITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

17. MODERN-DAY PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY AT SEA ARE CONSTANTLY EVOLVING. ONLY AN IN-DEPTH UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTRICACIES OF THESE THREATS WILL HELP US PROMULGATE COMPREHENSIVE MARITIME POLICIES AND CONSTRUCT BETTER LAW ENFORCEMENT REGIMES TOWARDS NEUTRALIZING THEM EFFECTIVELY.

18. THOSE THREATS MAY ALSO INCLUDE OTHER CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES THAT RISKS THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF SEA ROUTES.

19. OTHER FORMS OF MARITIME CRIMES INCLUDE HUMAN TRAFICKING, MIGRANT SMUGGLING, ILLEGAL ARMS TRADE, NARCOTICS, ILLEGAL FISHING AND MARITIME TERRORISM. A NOTABLE CONCERN IS ON THE RISE OF 'SLAVE LABOUR' ON BOARD FISHING VESSELS THAT GOES UNDETECTED BY AUTHORITIES AT SEA OR ASHORE WHERE POOR INDIVIDUALS ARE EXPLOITED FOR THE GREED OF OTHERS. THESE ARE MARITIME CRIMES THAT VIOLATES FREEDOM OF THE SEAS AND THREATENS THE SECURITY OF OUR MARITIME DOMAIN.

20. MARITIME CRIMES IN ALL ITS FORMS UNDERMINE OUR ECONOMY AND IF LEFT UNCHECKED, WILL ALLOW THE PERPETRATORS TO BELIEVE THAT THEY CAN OPERATE AT SEA WITH IMPUNITY. IT IS CLEAR TO ALL OF US HERE THAT COMBATTING THESE TRANSNATIONAL THREATS ARE CONSEQUENTIAL TO THE FUTURE SAFETY AND FREEDOM OF OUR WATERS.

21. A KEY COMPONENT IN TACKLING THESE CRIMES IS THE EFFECTIVE INTELLIGENCE GATHERING AND INFORMATION SHARING BETWEEN APPROPRIATE ORGANISATIONS, ESPECIALLY THE LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. MOREOVER, PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP IS ALSO IMPORTANT TO THIS EXERCISE. THE SHARING OF INFORMATION BETWEEN THE INDUSTRY AND MILITARY CONTRIBUTED TO THE EFFORTS IN COMBATTING PIRACY OFF THE COAST OF SOMALIA.

22. CLOSE CO-OPERATION BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND ITS NEIGHBOURS IN 2005 AND 2006 SUCCESSFULLY REDUCED INCIDENTS ON PIRACY ALONG THE STRAITS OF MALACCA. AS SUCH, THERE IS A NEED FOR CONTINUED AND ENHANCED INTERGOVERNMENTAL CO-OPERATION TO SHARE INFORMATION AND RESPOND TO INCIDENTS SWIFTLY.

23. ANY SECURITY BREACH WITHIN OUR WATERS ARE DEALT WITH BY THE MALAYSIAN MARITIME ENFORCEMENT AGENCY OR THE MMEA WITH GREAT DETERMINATION. THE ACTIONS THEY HAVE TAKEN AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS REFLECTS THE POSITION OF THIS GOVERNMENT.

24. MALAYSIA WILL NEVER SETTLE FOR A SHORT-TERM FIX OF OUR MARITIME SECURITY CONCERNS. WE ARE ALSO DETERMINED TO SEARCH FOR LONG-TERM MEASURES WHICH WILL INHIBIT MARITIME CRIMES IN THE FUTURE.

25. THE HOME MINISTRY HAS APPROVED LICENCES FOR MALAYSIAN PRIVATE MARITIME SECURITY COMPANIES TO PROVIDE SECURITY SERVICES IN THE MALAYSIAN MARITIME ZONE. THESE COMPANIES CAN CONTRIBUTE THROUGH RISK MITIGATION WHERE AGENCIES CAN PROVIDE CRISIS RESPONSE WHEN NEEDED BY THE INDUSTRY. THE GUIDELINES AND RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL MARITIME ORGANIZATION AND THE EXISTING INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL LEGISLATION WAS ADHERED TO IN APPROVING LICENCES FOR THESE COMPANIES.

26. ALONG WITH OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE REGION, MALAYSIA IS DISCUSSING THE OPTIMUM USE OF RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH TRANSNATIONAL MARITIME CRIME. WE BELIEVE THAT ONLY THROUGH A COLLECTIVE AND COORDINATED EFFORT WITH OTHER NATIONS WILL ENABLE US TO COMBAT THESE MARITIME SECURITY THREATS BOTH EFFECTIVELY AND OPTIMALLY.

27. IN CONCLUSION, THE MARITIME DOMAIN IS A CORNERSTONE OF THE LIVELIHOOD OF HUMANITY, HABITAT, RESOURCES AND INTERCONTINENTAL TRADE. IT CONNECTS STATES AND REGIONS AND TURNS OTHERWISE DISTANT NATIONS CLOSER.

28. AS THE WORLD'S POPULATION GROW, OUR RELIANCE ON THE OCEANS AS A HIGHWAY FOR COMMERCE AND A SOURCE OF RESOURCES WILL INCREASE EVEN MORE. THE UNIMPEDED USE OF THE WORLD'S OCEANS, FREE FROM PIRACY AND ARMED ROBBERY, UNDERGRIDS EVERY NATION'S JOURNEY INTO THE FUTURE.

29. ON THAT NOTE, IT GIVES ME GREAT PLEASURE TO DECLARE THE INTERNATIONAL MEETING ON GLOBAL PIRACY, ARMED ROBBERY & MARITIME SECURITY 2015 OPEN.

30. I WISH YOU A SUCCESSFUL MEETING AND FRUITFUL DISCUSSION IN THE NEXT TWO DAYS.

THANK YOU.