

SPEECH BY H.E. THE YANG DI-PERTUAN NEGARA,
TUN YUSOF BIN ISHAK AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING
OF THE ALL-MALAYA MUSLIM MISSIONARY SOCIETY'S
MOSQUE AT TIONG BAHRU ROAD ON 23.10.1964.

I am very happy to have the opportunity to be present with you here today for the official opening of this mosque.

I have been invited by the All-Malaya Muslim Missionary Society to officiate in the official opening ceremony, for which I thank the Society very much.

This mosque will be a boon to the Muslim residents of this area, and it is my hope that they will make use of this mosque as a centre for spreading the teachings of Islam.

Singapore is a country which believes in religious freedom, and with the opening of another mosque, we have taken another step forward in the task of spreading the Muslim faith.

In a country like Malaysia, in which people of different races and religions live side by side, we Muslims have a role to play together with the non-Muslims in the task of maintaining and strengthening the unity of the people and making a success of our country. It is my hope that all the Muslims in this country will use Islam as a means of achieving peace and progress for our country and not as an instrument for breaking inter-racial unity.

We have seen how riots and disturbances have occurred in certain countries, resulting in bloodshed, when religion was misused by fanatical and irresponsible groups.

We in Singapore have lived in harmony with our non-Muslim brethren, who give their undivided loyalty to this country, for more than a hundred years. This harmonious living must be maintained so that there will be lasting peace in our country.

If we succeed in maintaining racial harmony, then we will succeed in the achievement of our aspirations to make this country of ours a place where there is peace and prosperity to be enjoyed not only by ourselves but also by the future generations.

I was told that the Muslim Missionary Society was preparing sermons for Friday prayers which were intended to bring the people of various races closer together and to strengthen their unity. I hope that these sermons have been completed and distributed to all mosques.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the Mosque Committee for the hard work they have put in in the building of this mosque.

And now, I have great pleasure in declaring this mosque open.

OCTOBER 23, 1964.

(Time issued: 1500 hours)

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