



SPEECH BY

**TUAN YANG TERUTAMA TUN DATO' SERI UTAMA
AHMAD FUZI BIN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK
YANG DI-PERTUA NEGERI PULAU PINANG**

FOR

**FOR THE LAUNCHING OF THE TOWNHALL SESSION THEMED
“CRIME CONSCIOUSNESS AND SAFETY FOR WOMEN IN PENANG”**

**15TH DECEMBER 2021 (WEDNESDAY), 10 AM
AT ROYALE CHULAN HOTEL, PENANG**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

YBhg. Dato' Mohamad Anil Shah

Chairman of the Penang Crime Consciousness & Public Safety Society
(CCPSS)

YBhg. Dato' Annie Chin

Chartered President of the Penang Women Chamber of Commerce
(PWCC)

Madam Tong Bee Yoke

President of the PWCC

Mr. Seah Kok Heng

Official Ambassador of CCPSS and

Organising Chairman of The Townhall Session

Distinguished Heads of Government Departments and Corporate Entities

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. Assalamualaikum and a very good morning. I trust all of you are in good health to participate in today's Townhall Session, co-organised by the CCPSS and the PWCC to discuss some very pertinent issues with regard to Crime Consciousness and Safety for Women in Penang.

2. Firstly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the CCPSS and the PWCC for inviting me to this Townhall Session.

3. As most of us are aware, the COVID-19 pandemic and Movement Control Order (MCO), have exacerbated the cases of domestic violence due to various factors, these include when bread winners lost their jobs and when family members were cooped up at home over a long duration. Indeed, the initiative to organise this Townhall Session is very timely, taking into consideration our efforts to move forward into the post COVID-19 pandemic era, with the unwavering support of all stakeholders in ensuring our safety.

4. I would like to take this opportunity, to congratulate the organisers, for giving due priority, to focus on Crime Consciousness and Safety for Women in Penang, as an important precursor, for the successful accomplishment of other daily activities, which involve women in particular.

5. Women in Penang constitute 50.2 percent of the total population, and thus have to be given the correct emphasis, not only in terms of numbers but more importantly, in terms of the diverse roles they play, be it in the family or in positions they hold in government, businesses and the communities they live in.

6. As we all know, prevention is better than cure. It is pertinent that discussion be in place, on the wide range of issues concerning women vis-a-vis crime consciousness and safety. These include physical threats, such as in crimes involving bodily harm and property security, the consequences of conducting daily transactions on the internet, and the lesser known dark net or deep web, the incessant threats from cyber bullying, ransom wares, malware and hacking, and the ever challenging looming attacks from scammers through their very intricate schemes.

7. All of these need to be addressed by the relevant authorities, who have the resources and the expertise, to tackle the perpetrators, and ensure that they face the full force of the laws.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The Penang State Government, with the Penang Women's Development Corporation (PWDC) as the implementation agency, has adopted the Safe Family Policy, in our effort to eradicate domestic violence in the state. This policy formulates a unique and collective state and society approach, which includes the government, NGOs, community leaders, and religious groups to form a support system, namely the First Support Points.

9. The First Support Points are either individuals or centers that help domestic violence case referral to relevant agencies, including the police, welfare department and general hospital. Besides establishing a support system, the public needs to acknowledge that gender-based violence is a no-no in the fabric of our society.

10. I have also recently launched the mobile apps for the First Support Point, which enables victims or concerned parties, to locate the nearest First Support Point, so that help can be extended soonest possible.

11. In this regard, it is commendable that NGOs such as CCPSS and PWCC, in collaboration with the authorities, have embarked on this journey, to support efforts undertaken by the authorities, to spread the word regarding safety for women, and how to avoid becoming a victim of crime as well as to be safe, both in the physical environment as well as in cyberspace.

12. At this juncture, I would like to remind all present here, especially many of you who are in business and commerce, to start looking at crime consciousness and public safety, as an integral part of sustainability.

To live and ultimately thrive in the complex environment we live in, will require us to invest in safety and security, and not merely looking at it as a cost per se. Let me say that failure to take the necessary steps can lead to even higher consequential costs.

13. This may manifest itself in the form of physical disabilities, loss of livelihood and huge medical costs, as well as unquantifiable damages to one's self-esteem, and the company's reputation.

14. Thus, it is timely, that we all come together, to work closely to achieve the objective of enhancing crime consciousness, and ensure safety for women in Penang. I hope, this Townhall Session will be a useful platform, to share best practices and provide an opportunity for all present to network, as we come together to make Penang a safe place for all.

15. With that, it gives me great pleasure to officially launch this Townhall Session titled "Crime Consciousness and Safety for Women in Penang".

Thank you.

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah,

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.