



**SPEECH BY**

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

**COFFEE TABLE BOOK LAUNCH  
"THE ENIGMATIC LIFE OF NAZIR ARIFF"  
12<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2023 (SUNDAY) 4:15PM  
AT RESTAURANT MANSION 32, PENANG**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Dato' Seri Nazir Ariff bin Mushir Ariff & Family,

Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and a very good afternoon.

1. I am pleased and honoured to be invited to say a few words, and to launch the Coffee Table Book entitled, “The Enigmatic Life Of Nazir Ariff”, by Dato' Seri Nazir Ariff bin Mushir Ariff this afternoon.

2. I must say that it was a delightful learning experience for me to spend an hour or so of my weekend last week to go through, cover to cover, what I can only described, as a very well-written and most readable Coffee Table Book for the general public.

3. I am impressed with the excellent compilation of memorable and historical photographs contained in the book, plus a lucid and candid narrative of the historical context of the subject matters involved, as to significantly enhance the overall quality and content of the book.

4. Reading the book reminds me of the wisdom of the writer to craft just enough words, to convey his message that is intended “to be his legacies for his family and the generations to come,” without having to produce a long thesis. What is left unsaid in the book is in turn left to the ingenuity and imagination of the reader.

5. Indeed, the carefully selected and well arranged high quality photos included in the book speak for themselves.

6. In choosing this format, Dato' Seri Nazir has more than achieved his intended objective.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. I have to confess that I may not be the best person to speak about Dato' Seri Nazir as a person, having known him closely only after assuming my duties in Penang, as to do justice to his well-earned reputation and social standing in the State. There were many like Tan Sri Dr Koh Tsu Koon, Dato' Harry Cockrell, Dato' Murly, Dato' Danny Goon Siew Cheang, Dato' Dr Kathleen Loh, Dato' Seri Kenny Ong and Dato' Welf Atzberger who know him very well as close friends, as clearly manifested by their articulation of him in the book.

8. But I have grown to know him better since our first meeting at the E&O Hotel in 2021, and subsequent superb dinner hosted by him in Batu Ferringhi. He certainly strikes one as a fine gentleman, highly-educated in the British tradition with a cool and calm demeanour, at ease in any given situation, communicative without being over bearing and who can also be witty and candidly critical with cynicism, if and when, necessary.

9. And I must add in all sincerity that he can also pose a dashing figure-with or without his hair !

10. And now, reading the book provides me with a clearer insight into the remarkable life of a man who has left an indelible mark on our beautiful state of Penang and in the hearts of many of his loyal workers, admirers, close friends and members of his family including children and grandchildren.

11. It is indeed a tale of an extraordinary life, filled with exciting journeys, social activities, soul-searching adventures and successful career, achieved through hard work, diligence, independent disposition and uncompromising adherence to principles and values of integrity, justice and fair-play.

12. Coming from a well-heeled Malay family with a long established philanthropic tradition in Penang and well known for their contributions and caring nature for the poor and the needy, the spirit of giving certainly runs deep in his DNA.

13. His voluntary leadership and membership of numerous Clubs and NGOs in Penang speak volumes of his untiring devotion and contributions

to the society at large in Penang irrespective of race, colour or creed. It is, as it were, his own way of showing his gratitude for what has been bestowed upon him by Allah SWT, as to enable him now to "give back to society."

14. I am also impressed and struck, by the sheer range of his experiences, including working alongside four Chief Ministers of Penang. Being accepted at different levels of society and community is a measure of the high reputation that he enjoys. At the broader level he has indeed seen it all - witnessing national political upheavals in the country and living through the world's economic crises and the painful experience of the Covid-19 pandemic.

15. However, what sets Dato' Seri Nazir apart is not only his personal and professional accomplishments and admirable reputation, but the rare glimpse into his personal life, including the joy he takes in throwing unforgettable themed parties, such as his Great Gatsby and Shanghai Jazz soirées. It is obvious that he is someone who not only knows how to work hard but also how to enjoy life to the fullest.

16. Undoubtedly, having a supportive circle of family and friends is crucial for achieving success in life. Dato' Seri Nazir has been blessed with

unwavering support from his loved ones, through life's ups and downs. His family is everything to him. Their love and support have been the driving force of his motivation to push boundaries and strive for greater heights, as well as his desire to make a positive impact on the world. Now, with the addition of his grandchildren, their influence can be seen in the remarkable legacy he hopes to leave behind.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

17. Great minds like Sir Martin Luther King, Samuel Johnson, Dwight Moody, Fred Small and Brian Herbert, among others, spoke wisely of the measure of a man.

18. It has been said that the measure of a man:

- i) Is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy;
- ii) Is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good;
- iii) Is not how many servants he has but how many men he serves;
- iv) Is the love he leaves behind when he is gone and, last but not least;
- v) Is how he will be remembered by his own children.

Such are the measure of a man.

19. Dato' Seri Nazir has indeed lived up to these high standard and measures, leaving behind a legacy that Penang and members of his family and friends should be proud of.

20. And so, in conclusion, as we celebrate this launch today, let us all take a moment to salute, not only the book, but the man behind it.

21. We sincerely thank Dato' Seri Nazir Ariff for his commendable contributions to the State and people of Penang with the hope that his unwavering commitment to making Penang a better place for all, would continue for a long, long time to come.

22. With these words, and with Bismillahirrahmanirahim, it gives me great pleasure to launch the Coffee Table Book entitled "The Enigmatic Life Of Nazir Ariff".

Thank you and

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.