

**Speech of YB Datuk Tiong Thai King
Member of Parliament P.211 Lanang
And Chairman of SibU Municipal Council
During Launching of SibU Urban Surveillance System
On 31 October 2011**

YBhg Tuan ACP Shafie bin Ismail, Ketua Polis Daerah SibU

YBhg. En. Daniel Ngieng, Deputy Chairman of SibU Municipal Council

Mr. Jason Tai, Managing Director of Pansar Group of Companies and Emastech Sdn Bhd

Councillors, SMC Officers, Senior Police Officers

Press, Ladies and Gentlemen

Good morning to all of you.

First of all, on behalf of YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh, I would like to extend his sincere apology for not being able to be with you this morning due to other important commitments.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, SibU Municipal Council has made it one of the top priorities to ensure that SibU is a safe city for all to live, work and play. This is in line with the one of the Government's six National Key Result Areas (NKRA) - Crime Prevention. Since 2010, we have set up a Safe City Committee comprising SMC, Police and other government departments. Working closely with the Federal Ministry of Housing and Local Government and Ministry of Home Affairs, SMC has carried out many safe city initiatives.

Firstly, we are creating a pedestrian friendly city. By turning streets into one-way traffic, ample space has been created on both sides of the roads in CBD for pedestrians. We have leveled most of the uneven five footways for safe walking. Recently we have also cleared five-foot ways of unnecessary obstacles such as display of goods and motorcycles. We have also segregated pedestrians from motor vehicles by putting in place potted plants, barricades and bollards at suitable locations. Pedestrian safety is further enhanced with many squeeze points and safety mirrors along the main streets.

Secondly, we have increased the number of street lightings at CBD and commercial areas, which are too dark at night. That includes Jalan Mahsuri, Pedada Commercial Centre, former Mist Garden and CBD areas. That will help to prevent and deter street crimes.

Thirdly, we have installed many metal bars along motorcycle parking bays to enable motorcyclists to lock or secure their vehicles. This will help to prevent or deter motorcycle theft, which is still quite rampant in Sibu.

Fourthly, we have since 2008 installed 12 CCTVs in CBD through sponsorship by private sector. CCTVs helped the authorities to have a closer surveillance on crime hotspots in town. We have the pleasure to inform that an additional 42 units of CCTVs will be installed over the next two months at various locations in the town center. These locations have been identified with the help of the police. All the CCTVs will be linked either through broadband or fiber optics to the Police Operation Centre and will be closely monitored by the Police. The system has the facilities to have real-time images and recording. Recordings can be played back at anytime should there be a necessity. I believe that this will be an effective surveillance and also deterrent tool for criminals. When the system is fully implemented by the end of the year, it will help to reduce the crime rate in CBD.

Distinguished guests. Ladies and gentlemen, crime prevention does not rely completely on enforcement authorities, urban design and surveillance tools. Everyone of us has a role to play to ensure our safety. One of the best ways to take an active part in crime prevention is to become more alert and aware of what is going on around you. Crime can be reduced by following some simple measures like locking your vehicles and watching out for suspicious people around you.

Council is disheartened by acts of vandalism in town. Damaging traffic lights and theft of manhole or drain covers are the two most irresponsible vandalism acts we came across these few years. The culprits should understand that their irresponsible acts would cause grave danger to the local communities. We urge the public to reports such culprits and incidents to the authorities should they come across them.

I should thank the police for doing a good job in crime prevention. The local communities should render their full support and assistance to the police to make Sibu a safe city.

Last but not least, I wish to take this opportunity to thank EmasTech Sdn Bhd and Danawa Sdn Bhd for taking up the challenge to implement the Sibu Urban Surveillance System and I wish you smooth and speedy completion of the project by end of the year.

With that, I have the pleasure on behalf of YB Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh to launch the Sibu Urban Surveillance System.

Thank you.