

UCAPAN Y.A.B. DATUK HUSSEIN ONN,
PRESIDEN PERSATUAN BAGI ORANG-ORANG
BUTA MALAYSIA DALAM MESYUARAT LEMBAGA
PENGARAH PERSATUAN DI ABBEY ROOM,
HOTEL MERLIN, KUALA LUMPUR,
PADA 5HB SEPTEMBER, 1975
JAM 6.00 PETANG

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan,

1. Saya merasa sukacita kerana dapat hadir dalam mesyuarat pertama Lembaga Pengarah Persatuan, pada petang ini. Pertamanya, saya sukalah mengalu-alukan ahli-ahli sekalian ke mesyuarat ini. Kedua, saya ingin mengucapkan tahniah khasnya ahli Jawatankuasa Kerja dan juga Chairmen of the various Standing Committees for the great work carried out. Saya tahu sebahagian bahkan semua ahli Lembaga ini adalah 'busy people' tapi dapat juga melapangkan masa untuk berkhidmat kepada Persatuan. This is indeed highly commendable.

Friends,

2. I have noticed too that in many of MAB's Standing Committees and their Sub-Committees, various Ministeries and Government Departments have been represented and that the officials who have been assigned to our Committees have participated actively and usefully in our deliberations. I am pleased to see the good partnership which exists between the Government and the MAB to complement and supplement the services for the blind in this country.

3. The significant progress that has been made to-day to meet the needs of the blind can be attributed to the joint efforts and action of MAB, the Government and equally

important, the public. Together, a number of important programmes have been launched and carried out. These are evident in the field of education where primary education is provided by voluntary agencies such as MAB and the St. Nicholas in Penang and secondary education is looked after by the Ministry of Education in their Integrated Programmes of normal schools. In the field of prevention of blindness, the Ministry of Health is giving every co-operation towards our Mobile Eye Clinic and our "Operation Cataract" Projects to restore sight and prevent blindness. For the welfare of the blind, in general, the Ministry of Welfare Services provides the necessary trained personnel to look into their problems and gives professional help. There are but a few examples of the partnership

which exists between MAB and the Government to provide maximum opportunities for the blind to be rehabilitated and trained to enable them to live an independent and dignified life.

4. I confess that The Board of Directors has not met as often as it would like to, due to various circumstances. In future, it is my hope that it will be revitalized to provide maximum opportunities for every member to contribute his services. However, the affairs of the Association have been in good hands. The Executive Committee which looks after them meets every month to discharge various matters and business of the Association. It is composed of 7 Board Members under the Chairmanship of Mr. R.K. Panikkar and each of them has a key

role to play as Chairman of various Standing Committees and Sub-Committees. To these members, I would like to express special thanks on behalf of the Association.

5. As you are aware, our on-going programmes are progressing well and in spite of financial difficulties, none of our activities has really suffered badly. In fact, we were able to launch new projects like the "Operation Cataract" Project; introduce new training programme such as massage training; and even put up a hostel in Petaling Jaya for blind workers. All these have taken a lot of time and efforts of Committee members. But it is much appreciated by our blind clients.

6. One aspect which I would like to stress here is that our Association is in a poor financial position. The expansion of our services, coupled with the impact of inflation, have placed great strain on our ability to raise the amount of money required to meet our Budget. The task before us now is to look for new ways and means to bring in steady income. In line with government economy drive, it is also be necessary to resort to very stringent measures in our spending in order to help reduce the deficit.

7. I note that steps have already been taken to re-examine the whole set-up of MAB to see how best our services could be streamlined and to reduce our expenses and also to look for

measures to generate more funds. I note too that a Management Consultant was engaged to carry out a comprehensive study of the MAB's set-up and that he and his Team has made a number of useful recommendations. I am happy to hear that the Consultant, Mr. N. Tantrum has undertaken the task on a none-fee basis and that M.C.I.S. has also allowed their officers to assist Mr. Tantrum free of charge as a community project. We are very grateful to them for making it possible for such a professional exercise to be carried out.

8. I now look forward to receiving the reports by the Chairmen of the various Committees which will give us a total picture of the Association. I shall now call upon the Chairmen of the Various Committees to brief us.

measures to generate more funds. I note too that a Management Consultant was engaged to carry out a comprehensive study of the NAB's set-up and that he and his team has made a number of useful recommendations. I am happy to hear that the Consultant, Mr. N. Jantun has undertaken the task on a non-fee basis and that M.E.I.S. has also allowed their officers to assist Mr. Jantun free of charge as a community project. We are very grateful to them for making it possible for such a professional exercise to be carried out.



I now look forward to reports by the Chairman of the Association which will give us a total picture of the various Committees of the Association. I shall now call upon the Chairman of the various Committees to be present.

No Siri 156
No Penerimaan 18/79