

siaran akhbar

PERKHIDMATAN
ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI

diterbitkan oleh jabatan penerangan malaysia

SILA SEMAK SEMASA DILAFAZKAN

PEN. 10/76/14 (PM)

EMBARGO: Tidak boleh disiarkan sebelum
pukul 9.00 malam pada 2.10.1976

PERDANA MENTERI DI MAJLIS MESRA BAKTI

Ucapan Y.A.B. Datuk Hussein Onn, Perdana Menteri dan Presiden Persatuan Bulan Sabit Merah Malaysia, di Majlis Malam Mesra Bakti di Hotel Hilton, Kuala Lumpur, pada hari Sabtu 2hb. Oktober, 1976 jam 8.30 malam.

Saya merasa syukur kerana dapat bersama-sama hadir di Majlis yang permai ini serta dapat bertemu muka dengan para hadirin sekalian. Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Ahli Jawatankuasa Malam Mesera 4B Bulan Sabit Merah Malaysia kerana sudi menjemput saya dan isteri saya di majlis ini.

Sesungguhnya Majlis yang permai ini amatlah besar maknanya kerana di samping dapat kita beramah mesra mengeratkan persahabatan, malam ini menandakan pelancaran kempen mengutip derma untuk Bangunan Persatuan Bulan Sabit Merah Malaysia.

My wife and I are very pleased to have been invited here tonight on this happy occasion, to mark the launching of the campaign of the Building Fund for the Malaysian Red Crescent Society.

While we are truly grateful and somewhat flattered by the many good things said by YB Tan Sri Fatimah about us, I am at the same time a little apprehensive in my capacity as President of the Society when I realize that the target of the Building Fund is five million ringgit.

I appreciate that this is not an easy sum for a voluntary body to collect. The task is a tremendous one and nobody would be more aware of it than Chairman of the Building Committee herself. However, I am confident Tan Sri and her band of excellent helpers will be able to meet the required target through their own efforts. If this function provides us with any standard to go by, then its resounding success must speak highly of the ability of the Building Committee and gives support to the confidence which I have already placed on that Committee.

I have, in the past, seen a number of Red Crescent members but only at work. Today, we see them in a different light. It is nice to know that members of the Society are human and have the capacity for enjoying themselves. It is also nice to know that they do not invite quests only to Disaster Relief Dinners and that there are occasions when they eat, other than Disaster Relief Food. I should make it clear that I do not wish you to take what I have said as a Criticism on their Disaster Relief Food. Although the food is prepared by amateurs, I have tried it and can assure you that it is tasty and palatable enough - though perhaps not as sumptuous as the dinner we have just had.

The work of the Red Cross or Red Crescent Society is known throughout the world and I gather that the Malaysian Society stands high in the esteem of the League of Red Cross Societies for their diligence and their imaginative ventures. Among these ventures, we could cite the establishment of a Disaster Relief column consisting of 31 vehicles including 6 DUKWs with their capacity to travel both on land as well as on water and 22 mobile kitchens. Another imaginative venture started by the Society is the 24 hour

ambulance service covering the city of Kuala Lumpur and servicing three hospitals i.e. the General Hospital, the Assunta Hospital and the University Hospital. But the most imaginative of all its ventures is, without doubt, the decision to build a new Headquarters for itself.

Tan Sri Fatimah has said that the late Prime Minister, Tun Abdul Razak, has promised the Society a dollar-for-dollar grant in its building project. She has expressed the hope that my charity will extend to pledging Government support for the Red Crescent Building in a concrete and tangible manner. I presume that these remarks have been made today because naturally, she will like to know what our Government attitude will be in the matter. In this connection, I should like to say that the Government has decided to give it support to this mobile venture on ringgit per ringgit basis.

We are all anxious that the Red Crescent Society should be successful in its attempt to build a new Headquarters for itself so that it could move out of the present old building to something more worthy of its efforts and endeavours. We are deeply concerned by the weak floor and foundations of the present Red Crescent building. I should remember not to walk too firmly in the building when I next pay a visit to the Society. We are equally concerned that there is an imminent danger that meetings of the Society will have to be held under open umbrellas. If perchance this should happen and the building should be flooded up, then it is well to remember that the Society has 6 DUKWs at its disposal. The Malaysian Red Crescent Society could be the first Society to hold its meetings on DUKW.

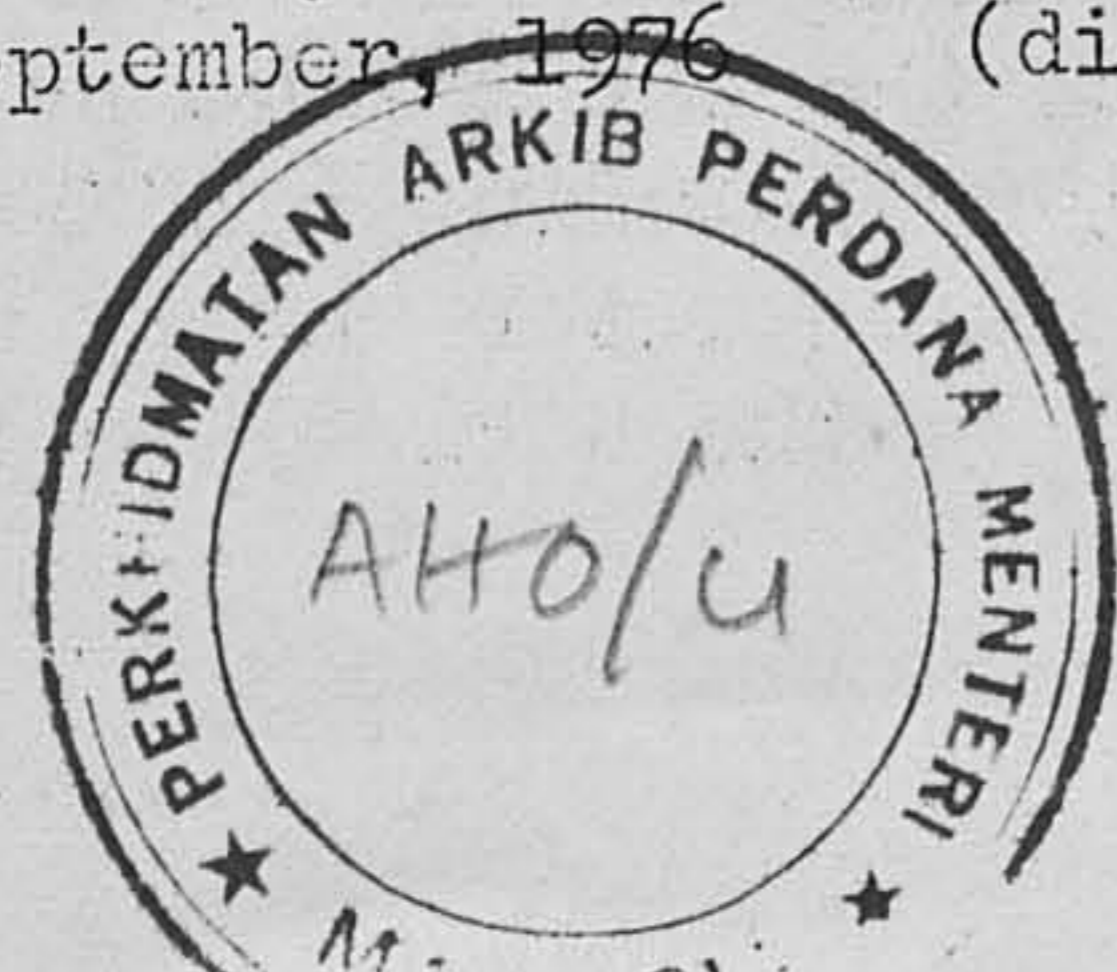
More important than comfort is the need for a National Society to have a strong headquarters because the headquarters is the nerve centre of any organisation. A strong headquarters means a strong organisation and a strong organisation means that its staff must be adequately provided with the means of carrying out their work. In view of the many new projects now undertaken up by the M.R.C.S., the need for a strong headquarters is even more pressing. We understand that the organisation is now enlarging its activities in rural areas. This is a very good step forward in the work of the Society, one which will need to be pushed forward with all its strength and might. There is a great need in the rural areas of our country as in any other developing country, for the dissemination of the information of health and sanitation, leadership training, co-operative ventures and the development of the "Gotong Royong" spirit. I personally feel the Red Crescent can do a lot in this direction since it has already won the confidence of the people and since it has the capacity to teach and assist those less fortunate than themselves.

I said before that I have seen the Red Crescent Society at work. I know that they can do for I have seen them working with major disasters such as floods and fires and even with minor accidents or even the tracing of a missing relative. Their dedication to work and their enthusiasm is an inspiration to all of us that I am reminded of the words of a great man many years ago of the debt owed by so many to so few. I am truly proud to be President of such an organisation, and take this opportunity in wishing the Society every success in the years to come.

PERKHIDMATAN
ARKIB PERDANA MENTERI

KUALA LUMPUR,
2hb. September, 1976
hy/bm

(dikeluarkan pada pukul 4.00 petang)



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