

Sila semak semasa dilafazkan

**UCAPAN YANG AMAT BERBAHAGIA
DATO SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD ALI
SELAKU PENAUANG PPSEAWA MALAYSIA
DI MAJLIS PELANCARAN BUKU
"ENVIRONMENT ALERT: A MANUAL FOR THE FAMILY"
DI HOTEL HILTON, KUALA LUMPUR
PADA HARI SELASA, 7 DISEMBER 1999
JAM 10.00 PAGI**

Bersyukur kita kehadiran Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala kerana dengan limpah kurniaNya dapat kita bersama-sama di Majlis pagi ini dalam suasana aman dan damai. Saya juga mengucapkan terima kasih kepada penganjur Majlis atas jemputan untuk melancarkan buku yang ketiga terbitan PPSEAWA Malaysia. Maka saya mengucapkan syabas kepada pertubuhan ini kerana sentiasa peka terhadap isu-isu semasa dan seterusnya bertindak untuk membantu mencegah atau mengatasinya.

2. Saya masih ingat lagi Workshop Antarabangsa, "Family and the Environment: The Challenges of Our Times", anjuran PPSEAWA Malaysia dengan kerjasama PPSEAWA Antarabangsa dan UNESCO yang berlangsung pada 1994. Ekoran kepada Workshop tersebut ialah beberapa Workshop di peringkat negara dan negeri telah diadakan. Ia bertujuan berkongsi pendapat dan pengalaman mengenai peranan berkesan yang boleh dimainkan oleh keluarga untuk membendung masalah alam sekitar dan seterusnya bersama-sama mewujudkan satu negara maju tanpa mencemarkan alam sekitar. Saya begitu senang hati melihat bahawa PPSEAWA Malaysia telah sekali lagi menunaikan tanggungjawabnya terhadap masyarakat dengan menerbitkan satu buku panduan iaitu Environment Alert: A Manual for the Family, yang akan dilancarkan pagi ini.

3. It gives me great pleasure to be here this morning for the launching of PPSEAWA's third publication which is also its first handbook on the environment. As Patron, I have been

following closely PPSEAWA's activities, in particular the various workshops and seminars at both international and national levels, which have resulted in the production of this handbook, *Environment Alert: A Manual for the Family*.

4. It behooves us to do everything possible to protect our families from all dangers. With modernisation, and rapid industrialisation and overcrowding in urban areas our environment has taken a toll. As parents of our family and as responsible citizens we cannot only raise awareness but also act smart in our everyday life to live in harmony with nature. Therefore this Manual is timely, for together with many other sources of environment education, PPSEAWA Malaysia too join with the rest in a shared vision of our environmentally sustainable tomorrow. For indeed it takes a community to raise environment consciousness.

5. To all of us the family is a subject most dear to our hearts. We grow up from the family and our families grow from us. The family is our life and we are the life of the family. The importance of the family unit and its role in shaping future generations, particularly in addressing socio-economic needs and sustainable development practices cannot be overemphasized. Today, the need to preserve the family institution has also assumed increasing significance not only in Malaysia but also throughout the world today.

6. We must not only learn to preserve, to appreciate, to care and develop our own self, but we must also care for others, for mother nature and for other forms of life in the natural world, in short our total environment. This is expressed in Principal 10 of the Rio Declaration in 1992 which states: "Environment issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens at the relevant levels. The Rio Conference strongly urged women to play their role, in partnership with government to create new levels of cooperation among states, key sectors of societies and people." To guide us, specific responsibilities to protect and preserve the environment, to be undertaken by families and whole communities, were clearly spelt out. They are simple to comprehend, easily implementable, affordable and generally socially acceptable.

7. To fully utilise our human resources is an important challenge. The vital roles of women and the family cannot be overemphasised. It is universally acknowledged that women as

educators and community leaders are the pivot of social change; this and the creativity and courage of younger family members should be mobilised to address environmental problems. Hence a collective concerted effort of every family member working in harmony with the environment is vital.

8. Malaysia is fortunate in that we have already established a caring society programme in the community. In promoting this programme we should also aim at a practice within the family which reflects care, consideration for others, examine extravagance and wastefulness, and practise a family lifestyle which is governed by restraints and moderation.

9. Speaking as a parent I realize how protective we are of home and family. We want the best for our children. It is all part of the natural life on this planet, earth, that the young are cared for and protected from harm. But are we really doing the best for our children and the future generations to come?

10. There is already a great deal of degradation of the environment which endangers all forms of life on earth. A good number of people in this part of the world are educated and aware of what is going on, or are seeking more knowledge in order to know better. An increasing number of books are in the market and more and more activities on the environment also appear in our daily newspapers. Many NGOs have undertaken interesting programmes and activities in pursuit of a clean, green environment. The media too have played an active role in disseminating knowledge and valuable information, calling the interests of readers particularly the young in sharing their views on these issues. It is therefore assumed that much of this information would have settled in the unconscious minds of the community. However, the rushed activities of daily living block any possibility of extracting and committing to conscious memory, key issues, points and facts from the diffused mass of information, for practical consideration with the family unit. While respecting the wisdom and responsibilities of parents and the hectic and frustrating lifestyle of most families, this Manual offers succinct information, based on documented facts and published material and suggests practical activities. Obviously this Manual aims at inspiring families to think green, activate the 4R concept of Rethink, Reduce, Recycle and Reuse and consequently conditions families to a new life-style.

11. PPSEAWA strategy should be to foster family action in protecting the environment, as well as to activate action by family members in the respective roles, at the work place, school and within the community. The chain reaction for family members promoting a green environment would add to the momentum in achieving the 3 Green's environment philosophy of dream green, think green and act green. PPSEAWA should also explore the use of the Manual for extra curricular activities in schools such as the Schools Green Club where young persons can put into action and translate those ideas into realities. At the global level the Manual could add a further contribution to the efforts of PPSEAWA International in pursuing the issues on environment in Asia and the Pacific region. Environment Alert will indeed be useful to the children of the world.

12. PPSEAWA therefore should activate family action programmes in the protection of the environment. Like all major undertaking the first steps are always the hardest. The first step points the way, sets the direction, starts the journey, gathers momentum, attracts followers and builds up strength along the way to higher and better strategies and activities. I am confident that by the Grace of Allah and our determination to protect the environment for future generations, this objective will be achieved. I would like to close this speech with a simple Bulgarian proverb: It states "The earth is man's only friend" Indeed it carries a strong message. Let us now do all we can to love our planet earth and treat it tenderly.

13. Sukacita saya menyatakan di sini bahawa usaha menterjemahkan buku tersebut dalam Bahasa Malaysia sedang diusahakan. Saya percaya masyarakat akan menerima buku ini sebagai satu program aktiviti keluarga demi kepentingan generasi masa hadapan.

14. Saya ingin mengambil peluang ini untuk mengucapkan syabas kepada PPSEAWA Malaysia yang telah menyempurnakan tanggungjawab menerbitkan buku tersebut. Dr Cynthia Lopez daripada Universiti Malaya telah mengkomitkan diri menyumbang banyak masa dan tenaga untuk menyiapkan buku tersebut dan saya mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi **tahniah** atas usaha gigihnya. Kepada ahli-ahli Jawatankuasa Kecil Alam Sekitar saya mengucapkan **terima kasih** atas sumbangan mereka.

15. Seterusnya dengan lafaz Bismillahir rahmanir rahim saya dengan rasminya melancarkan buku penerbitan PPSEAWA Malaysia yang bertajuk "Environment Alert: A Manual for the Family".
