

SPEECH BY HER EXCELLENCY
DATO SERI DATIN PADUKA
DR. SITI HASMAH BTE HAJI MOHD. ALI
AT A RECEPTION IN HONOUR OF
HER EXCELLENCY MADAME MARIAM TRAORE
AT SRI PERDANA, ON TUESDAY
7TH. MAY, 1985
AT 4.00 P.M.

Your Excellency Madame Mariam Traore;

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

On behalf of the Women's Organisations present here and on my personal behalf, I would like to express our warm welcome and greetings to you and your delegation to Malaysia, to Kuala Lumpur in particular.

2. Your visit here with His Excellency The President of the Republic of Mali, is an honour to us because this is the first visit of a Head of State from Africa. We hope that your stay here would meet with your interests and matched the very warm and kind hospitality that you and your ladies accorded me and my colleagues in Bamako last December.

3. This afternoon, I have tried to gather women leaders in the Government and non-Government organisations who in their field of interest and expertise, have one common aim and that is, to improve the conditions of women, protect and fight for the rights of women and to promote socio-economic activities that would give women a meaningful and efficient role in nation building.

4. Four of our guests here hold posts in the Government as a Minister and Deputy Minister and are also leaders in their respective political organisations. They are:-

- i) The Hon. Minister of Public Enterprises,
Datin Paduka Rafidah Aziz.
- ii) The Hon. Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department,
Rajjah Sharifah Dora.
- iii) The Hon. Deputy Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports,
Datin Paduka Rosemary Chong.
- iv) The Hon. Deputy Minister of Housing and Local Government,
Madam Nafsiah Omar.

5. Of the many women's organisations, twelve are represented here - they are:-

i. NACIWID

- National Advisory Council for the Integration of Women in Development represented by its Chairperson, Datin Ann Majeed. NACIWID (a Government body) is in the Prime Minister's Department to advice the Government on women's programmes.

ii. KRAFTANGAN

- the Malaysian Handicraft Development Corporation, a statutory body responsible for the promotion of Handicraft. It is

represented here by its Chairperson, Datin Paduka Aishah Ghani, our former Minister of Welfare Services, and by its Director-General, Raja Fauziah.

iii. BAKTI

- Welfare Organisation formed by wives of Cabinet Ministers, their Deputies, Speakers of both Houses of Parliament, Parliamentary Secretaries and also of wives of former Government leaders. BAKTI is represented here by the Executive S/Committees of RAKTI.

iv. NCWO

- Mrs. John Gurusamy,

v. PUSPANITA

- Wives of Government Officers and Women Administration Officers Association.
- Deputy President, Puan Seri Zaitun Bee.

vi. PERWAKILAN

- Association of wives of Officers in the Foreign Ministry.
- President, Puan Seri Siti Maznah.

vii. Three Religious Muslim Bodies

- a. Muslim Women's Welfare Organisation of Malaysia.

-- Vice President, Puan Seri Datin Puteh Maria.

b. The Women's Division of the Muslim Welfare Organisation Malaysia or PERKIM

- Vice President, Datin Munirah.

c. PERTIWI

- Muslim Women Action Association.

-- Leader I, Datin Zakiah {also Director-General of the National Archives}.

viii. SPEAKER'S CLUB

- course in making speeches formed by local ladies and those in the Diplomatic Corp.

- President, Datin Naemah.

ix. WAO

- Women's Aid Organisations that gives shelter, counselling and assistance to battered wives and children.
- President, Puan Seri Chong Eu Ngoh, wife of the Minister of Transport, and a former Director in the Ministry of Welfare Services.

x. PPSEAWA

- international affiliations.
- represented by President, Toh Puan Saadiah Sardon.
- Hon. Secretary, Mrs. Juliana Chua.

xi. Girl Guides Association

- represented by Girl Guide Commissioner.
- Hajjah Halimah Taib.

6. Most of these ladies not only serve their respective associations or organisations, but also one or two others in the Federal Territory. We are also in the ASEAN Women's Association locally as in the Asean Women's Circle of the Foreign Ministry and ACWO (Asean Council of Women's Organisations).

7. I take this opportunity also to show you a little bit of our culture for which I thank the Minister of Culture, Youth and Sports for presenting two traditional dances and music in honour of Your Excellency.

8. In conclusion, I hope once again that you and your delegation will have a very pleasant stay in Kuala Lumpur and are able to see as much of our country and people in the next few days.

Thank you.
