

TEKS UCAPAN DATO SERI DR SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD ALI
HOTEL SHANGRI-LA, KUALA LUMPUR
MAJLIS PENYAMPAIAN IJAZAH 2002 INSTITUT HELP
07 APRIL 2002

Terlebih dahulu saya mengucapkan berbanyak terima kasih atas kehormatan yang diberi kepada saya untuk hadir di Majlis Penyampaian Ijazah 2002 di Institut HELP ini. Saya berasa gembira bersama dengan para hadirin sekalian, lebih-lebih lagi apabila melihat ramai saudara-mara bersama untuk menyaksikan anak-anak mereka atau saudara mereka tamat pendidikan di Institut HELP ini dengan menerima ijazah kelulusan yang mereka idam-idamkan. Inilah kemuncak usaha gigih sesuatu pelajar manakala melanjutkan pendidikan di institusi-institusi pendidikan tinggi selepas alam persekolahan.

2. Saya mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi tahniah kepada para graduan atas kejayaan anda semua yang saya yakin adalah hasil daripada ketekunan dan kerajinan anda sendiri. Kejayaan tidak akan diperolehi oleh sesiapa pun jika kita tidak berminat dan berusaha dengan bersungguh-sungguh untuk mencapainya. Institusi-Institusi pendidikan adalah untuk menerima pelajar-pelajar yang berminat untuk belajar dan mencapai kejayaan yang cemerlang dalam ilmu yang mereka pilih. Jika pelajar-pelajar tidak mengambil peluang yang baik untuk menimba ilmu ini, dan bersikap cuai, malas atau tidak serius dalam pelajarannya, mustahil ia akan berjaya.

3. Oleh itu, saya amat gembira melihat ramai graduan yang lulus membuktikan bahawa anda adalah serius dan akan memanfaatkan apa jua yang dipelajari di Institut HELP.

4. Namun hari ini bukan hari terakhir untuk graduan melanjutkan pendidikan yang lebih tinggi lagi dalam bidang-bidang yang tertentu. Anda akan masuk ke alam baru dimana anda akan mula hidup sendiri dari semua segi. Di negara-negara lain, hari "Convocation" seperti hari ini dinamakan hari "Commencement" iaitu hari permulaan bagi graduan mula mencari pekerjaan atau peluang-peluang lain untuk melanjutkan diri mereka dengan sendiri. Terpulanglah kepada anda semua mengaturkan masa hadapan anda dengan bijak bergantung kepada bidang pengetahuan dan kemahiran yang ada dan juga personaliti dan sikap anda terhadap sesuatu bidang yang ingin diceburi. Harap ingat, kepuasan hati dalam sesuatu bidang kerja, tidak perlu didorong semata-mata oleh upahan yang didapati setiap bulan, tetapi yang lebih penting ialah oleh kepuasan bertugas dari aspek fizikal, emosi dan rohani.

5. When I was a graduand myself 47 years ago, my parents were present in the Convocation Hall. I could imagine how grateful they were to the Almighty and how proud they were too, to see me walked to the Chancellor to get my scroll. Like all parents present in this Hall today they were happy and satisfied that their prayers, money and efforts to get their sons and daughters to the University have been fulfilled.

6. I would like to congratulate all parents who have made their sacrifices to ensure the continued education of their children in higher learning institutions. Children may say that it is the responsibility of parents to do so and that the children have the right and privilege to have a complete education.

7. I totally agree to these assumptions, but graduands here today must not forget the sacrifices parents made to fulfil that responsibility and to see you hold your scroll today. Not many of us are born with silver spoons in our mouths. To these families who had to sacrifice for the sake of their children's education and to those graduands who realise what their parents and families have done for them, I say "God Bless You", may you have continued love and care for one another as you walk further and climb the steps of success.

8. Malaysia is very determined to be the "Centre of Excellence" in Education. It is imperative for higher learning institutions to constantly improve themselves and to ensure that the students have the necessary skills required by both the public and private sectors. Companies today are constantly looking for young people who are not only skilful and intelligent but also have the capacity and ability to adapt to the working environment and apply their skills well to produce results.

9. To this end, I believe HELP Institute has taken the right step to expose students to actual situations by arranging for them to work with companies and to gain practical experience. This collaboration between higher institutions of learning and private companies will certainly assist students to improve themselves not only in academic skills but also in social relationships with other people.

10. I am pleased to note that HELP Institute has increased the number of PhDs and Master holders over the years. It has also taken the initiative to market their courses overseas to increase the foreign student population. This is very encouraging and the right step towards creating understanding and goodwill between Malaysian and foreign students socio-culturally.

11. HELP is also one of the first few institutions to be certified with ISO 9001:2000. I wish to congratulate them for the efforts made to obtain it, and I hope HELP will continue to be stringent and effective so that the Institute will move forward to provide quality education for the nation.

12. I would like to conclude my speech by giving tribute to the one person who made me accept this honour of presenting the scrolls to graduands today. I do not praise her just because she is my sister, much less praise any member of my family in public. But Datuk Paduka Dr Hajjah Saleha is a woman of high integrity and dedicated to the continued education of the young people. HELP Institute is one of the higher learning institutions she is involved in for many years. She may be conservative in her ways but her desire to see young people of all races succeed in education never changed.

13. Datuk Paduka Hajjah Saleha insisted on being here with you today inspite of having 2 major operations in November 2001 and another just 3 weeks ago. Her strong will and spirit to overcome her major illnesses is exemplary which everyone should emulate.

14. The young graduands should emulate her determination to study law at age 60 years at University Malaya and her fighting spirit to be here so that she will be with her young students and graduands today. For this, I am glad to be here and honoured by the Institute that made Datuk Paduka Saleha its Chairperson. Thank you, Kak.

15. Sekali lagi saya ucapkan tahniah kepada graduan Kelas 2002 dan "Selamat Maju Jaya" dalam penghidupan anda pada masa hadapan.