

TEKS UCAPAN DATO' SERI DR SITI HASMAH BT. HAJI MOHD ALI
MANDARIN ORIENTAL HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR
MAJLIS MALAM AMAL BAKTI
27 JULAI 2001

Alhamdulillah, debaran hati saya dan ahli-ahli BAKTI sampai ke kemuncaknya malam ini, dengan Majlis Malam Amal BAKTI menjadi kenyataan. Saya memanjatkan ucapan syukur kepada hadrat Ilahi, atas limpah kurnia taufik dan hidayat-Nya kepada kita semua, supaya bersama-sama menjayakan usaha dan niat murni BAKTI untuk berkhidmat bagi kanak-kanak, remaja, dewasa dan warga tua dalam masyarakat kita. Semoga Allah S.W.T. memberkati impian murni BAKTI dan membalas budi orang-orang yang tersentuh hati mengenainya, insya-Allah.

2. Bagi pihak BAKTI dan saya sendiri, saya menyatakan perasaan terharu melihat sambutan malam ini begitu baik sekali. Sebulan dahulu, sambutan agak lambat sedikit tetapi, daripada pengalaman BAKTI yang lampau, kami bersabar dan patuh kepada pepatah orang-orang tua -"slow and steady, win the race". Syukur alhamdulillah! Kehadiran tuan-tuan dan puan-puan malam ini membuktikan bahawa BAKTI telah berjaya menyentuh hati sanubari tuan-tuan dan puan-puan dengan rayuan-rayuan kami.

3. Saya sampaikan penghargaan dan terima kasih yang tidak terhingga kepada semua tetamu-tetamu terhormat, khususnya YAB Dato Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad dan YAB Dato Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yang pada malam ini bersama-sama dengan Yang Berhormat-Yang Berhormat, penderma-penderma dan semua yang membantu menjayakan Malam Amal BAKTI 2001 yang bertema "Impian Murni, Sentuhan Hati". Kehadiran tuan-tuan dan puan-puan bukan sahaja menyerikan majlis ini bahkan menghilangkan penat-lelah, kebimbangan dan menyakinkan hati ahli-ahli BAKTI yang terlibat, bahawa BAKTI pun BOLEH! menganjurkan Majlis Malam Amalnya sendiri. Terima kasih, tuan-tuan dan puan-puan.

4. It was in 1994 that BAKTI had a Charity Dinner on a grand scale, followed in 1996 with a jogathon. For the 2 big charity events, we received a total of RM 16.3 million to top up our treasury for welfare activities and building fund.

5. Our regular two yearly fund raising events were deliberately shelved by BAKTI in 1998 and 2000 when the economic downturn hit us in 1997. We appreciated and sympathised with all our corporate friends and the companies who were badly affected by the crisis and felt that it would be most inconsiderate and morally wrong for us to tax them at such a time. The whole country was finding ways to solve the economic crisis and to be prudent. BAKTI withheld our appeals but, by the grace of the Almighty, there were those amongst you who, without fail, sent us their contribution spontaneously and regularly during those hard times.

6. To all of you who sincerely remembered the needy during those days, I thank you

from the deepest depth of my heart and pray that the Almighty will bless you
for your generosity.

7. It was a standard regulation that NGOs should spend 70% of its fund-raising proceeds towards charity purposes within the year. BAKTI appealed to the Income Revenue Department to allow us to spread the distribution of our donations over 4 years instead of one, as we would not be fund-raising after the economic crisis of 1997. They kindly agreed, and with additional donations from those whom I mentioned earlier, BAKTI was able to continue helping those in need, especially those affected financially for the education or treatment of their sick children. The handicapped were not forgotten, neither were those in the Welfare Homes.

8 From year 1996 - Jun 2001, from the 70% allocation, 70% of it (average RM2.6 million per year) were distributed to individuals who are sick and handicapped, to institutions related to medical, education rehabilitation and social problems, the welfare of the Armed Forces and the Police.

9. 25% (RM1.1 million) were donated for Education giving opportunities to needy school children in the rural Primary and Secondary schools. RM50,000.00 were given to IPTAs every 2 years for the welfare of students. Last year, BAKTI's dermasiswa assisted 2,700 pupils through out the country, including those from Orang Asli.

10. 5% (RM209,000.00) of our donations go to assist flood and fire victims that frequently occur.

11. In year 2000 alone, BAKTI donated a sum of RM4.3 million back to society.

12. BAKTI was offered by the Government a two acre land in 1993 at Bukit Kiara. We started a Tabung Bangunan BAKTI in 1995 from savings from the 30% allocation of our yearly income.

13. BAKTI have decided that we should have a building to accommodate the various services that we have been contributing to the community. So far, BAKTI has not even a building to call its own. It was decided that BAKTI should build a Community Centre where various welfare services could serve the children, youths and adults. Our dream to have this centre came after deep thought and several discussions by BAKTI's special Project Co. and with the help of our Consultant Architect, the perspective plan of BAKTI's Community Centre at Bukit Kiara, or Pusat Komuniti BAKTI, Bukit Kiara, came into being, as seen in the Souvenir Programme and video presentation just now.

14. Hajat BAKTI adalah besar dan mungkin akan menelan belanja yang banyak. Mengenangkan hampir 25 tahun BAKTI ujud, tidak ada satu bangunan pun yang melambangkan khidmat BAKTI kepada masyarakat, maka, sudah tiba masanya untuk BAKTI mempunyai bangunan khidmatnya sendiri.

15. Inilah tujuan Malam Amal BAKTI malam ini. Sementara kita mengutip derma bagi menampung belanja membina Pusat Komuniti BAKTI ini, kita akan terus memberi bantuan kepada individu-individu yang memerlukan bantuan. BAKTI akan menjimatkan perbelanjaannya dan menggunakan sumbangan-sumbangan yang diterima dengan penuh amanah dan tanggungjawab.

16. Majlis Malam Amal ini dikelolakan semata-mata oleh ahli-ahli BAKTI sendiri. It was first suggested that BAKTI should have a joint-venture with an outside organisation which would have lessened the work and responsibilities of BAKTI members. This proposal was declined by BAKTI members themselves as they had successfully organised fund-raising dinners and activities in the past and are determined to again show that BAKTI pun BOLEH!

17. I have to relate to you this episode because apart from organising this dinner, BAKTI members have also to organise the Annual Badminton Tournament for Piala Perdana, for which BAKTI is the host in only 5 days from now.

18. Regardless, I am proud of my ladies. They are very diligent, dedicated and efficiently organised. They sacrificed a lot during the preparation this few months; one fell down the stairs and broke both her ankles; one broke her wrist falling over a box; discounting those who had family bereavements; but they carried on.

19. Tonight, BAKTI will again perform with the help of KRU who so kindly contributed their services for free. There are many whom BAKTI is grateful to, for the success of tonight's function. It is BAKTI's ultimate goal to entertain you ourselves for whatever it is worth, and to show our deepest appreciation and gratitude.

20. On behalf of BAKTI and myself, I would like to express our heartfelt thanks to so many which you can see from the list in our souvenir programme. To mention a few, let me thank:

- a) Our generous donors who are here tonight, buying tables and presenting their generous cheques. We thank you for even the smallest contribution you gave.
- b) Petronas - for sponsoring this dinner, which I hope you enjoyed.
- c) MMU - for assisting in preparing the video presentation of BAKTI activities and of Pusat Komuniti BAKTI, Bukit Kiara.
- d) KRU - for their help in the preparation for the entertainment programme. We hope to pass the test of being as good as you.
- e) Government Agencies –
- f) Ministry of Culture and Tourism - for the use of Istana Budaya for training and practices of the songs and the gamelan. Our instructors were most patient with us. Also the Orkestra Simfoni Kebangsaan for their participation in providing us with music during this dinner.

- g) Consultant Architect - for preparing the drawings and model of the proposed PKB, B.K. in time, and valuable advice regarding the design of the buildings and its submission to the authorities.
- h) Honoured Guests - Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers who helped host a table and to give the needed support to their wives. Thank you for being very considerate and supporting husbands. Your wife worked energetically and selflessly. You should be proud of her.
- i) Last and not least, my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to my Urusetia, the Pengerusi of all Jawatankuasa Kecil and their members, for their tireless efforts and commitment. As one member said, from the way the members organised and involved themselves in tonight's charity project, they not only proved that BAKTI members "Boleh" but also deserved a Masters Degree in Business Admin and Management! They do, syabas!

21. Most of them were from the same team of organisers that were as strong as the "teabags in hot-water in 1994", except sometimes, the mind was willing but the body was not. More often, both mind and body were not willing but, just wait. You will be surprised!

22. Forgive me for missing out certain names, but please relax. I thank you again for your support. God Bless. Wassalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.