

By	:	DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB BIN TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK PERDANA MENTERI MALAYSIA
Venue	:	Dewan Filharmonik Petronas, KLCC
Date	:	05/02/2014
Title	:	MERDEKA AWARDS 2014

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamualaikum Warahmahtullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Satu Malaysia.

Duli Yang Maha Mulia Pemangku Raja Perak Darul Ridzuan Raja Dr Nazrin Shah Ibni Sultan Azlan Muhibbuddin Shah;

Pengerusi Lembaga Pemegang Amanah Anugerah Merdeka;

Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Puan Besar Perak Tuanku Zara Salim;

Tuanku, Patik terlebih dahulu menjunjung kasih di atas limpah berkenan Tuanku berdua berangkat ke majlis ini.

Sesungguhnya keberangkatan Tuanku sebagai Pengerusi Lembaga Amanah Anugerah Merdeka bukan sahaja akan menambah seri lagi majlis ini tetapi akan menambah nilai prestij Anugerah Merdeka.

Lembaga Pemegang Amanah Anugerah Merdeka;

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan;

Pengerusi, Petronas,

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas;

Presiden dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Petronas,

Mr. Iain Lo;

Pengerusi, Shell Malaysia,

Mr. Hunter Farris;

Pengerusi, Exxon Mobil Subsidiari Malaysia,

Tuan Tuan Yang Terutama;

Tuan Tuan dan Puan Puan yang saya hormati sekalian,

CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATION

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. I am delighted to be here at the Dewan Filharmonik concert hall this evening to present the prestigious 2013 Merdeka Award. This is the fifth time I have presided over this event. Each year I am impressed by the breadth and depth of talent here in Malaysia; and I am reminded of high ideals that the Award itself aspires to.

2. The Merdeka Award was established by three of the world's leading energy companies. It aims to foster a culture of excellence; to show us what is possible when aspiration is matched by commitment, and passion by dedication.

3. It is an award which measures not just individual achievement, but the impact of that achievement on wider society. Merdeka Award recipients are distinguished by their professional and personal excellence, but also by their contribution to the country.

4. And so I am delighted to note that the recipients being honoured this evening - Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Arshad Ayub, Raja Tan Sri Dato' Seri Utama Muhammad Alias Raja Muhammad Ali, Dr Lim Boo Liat, Tan Sri Dato' Dr Yahya Awang and Emeritus Professor Dato' Dr Lam Sai Kit – boast a combined legacy that has benefitted generations of Malaysians, past and present. Their achievements – in education, rural reform, conservation, healthcare and medical research – have made a significant contribution to our nation's story.

5. When my father, the late Prime Minister Tun Abdul Razak bin Hussein, wanted to turn Mara College into institution focused on developing the talent the country needed, he entrusted Tan Sri Arshad with the task. Today, its alumni represent Malaysia in the four corners of the world. Tan Sri Arshad has shaped Malaysia's education landscape, developing professional education, and pursuing education reforms and innovation that have opened up a world of opportunity to students in Malaysia.

6. When we knew we could no longer rely on rubber and tin as core exports, we turned to palm oil, and relied on the contributions of experts like Raja Alias, who not only helped develop the commodity, but made a difference to the lives of so many rural communities by establishing settlements under the FELDA schemes.

7. When we began to realise the true value of our natural environment, we depended on the expertise of researchers such as Dr Lim. Today, aged 87, Dr Lim continues to mentor both

local and foreign young scientists in research. He remains an honorary adviser to the Department of Wildlife and National Parks, working with Pahang state government, training wildlife officers and assisting postgraduate students. Dr Lim has made outstanding contributions to the conservation of our biological diversity, our understanding and control of vector-borne diseases, and the protection of our natural heritage.

8. When we aspired to build a world-class medical system, we looked to authorities such as Tan Sri Yahya, who pioneered cardiothoracic surgery and education in Malaysia, and remains a role model – and an inspiration – for aspiring doctors and surgeons. Tan Sri Yahya also played an instrumental role in the establishment of the National Heart Institute (IJN).

9. Nor is medical excellence confined to our borders. Professor Lam has become one of the most influential figures in medical virology in South East Asia. His research in dengue is recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO), and his involvement in emerging diseases has led to the discovery of new viruses in the region.

10. These five gentlemen, and the teams who worked alongside them, have left their mark on Malaysia's history. But they have also laid the foundations for future success.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. Since its founding in 2007, the Merdeka Award has recognised 22 exceptional individuals and 2 organisations. Each serve as role models and for the Post-Merdeka generation to emulate.

12. Our hopes, and our prospects, rest on the new generation of young Malaysians who will steer our nation on to greater things.

13. Since Independence, sustained rapid economic growth has raised Malaysia from an agricultural and commodity-based economy to become one of the world's top trading nations.

14. Our sound economic performance has helped improve the quality of life for Malaysians, supporting huge advances in education, health care, infrastructure, housing and public amenities. But as we look beyond developed nation status, we must focus our energies on building a sustainable source of talent: those who will carry forward the momentum that began five decades ago in Merdeka Square.

15. It is my hope that the Merdeka Award will continue to inspire younger generations to build upon the legacy of our forefathers.

16. We have come a long way. Let us make a commitment together to the continued development of our nation. Let us put aside our differences, and look instead at what we share. Let us work together with mutual respect and responsibility, and focus on our common destiny. And let us draw our inspiration from the recipients of the 2013 Merdeka Award.

17. Once again, I wish to thank Tan Sri Arshad, Tan Sri Raja Alias, Dr Lim, Tan Sri Yahya and Professor Dato' Dr. Lam for their outstanding achievements, and their contribution to our nation. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the Merdeka Award Trust, and its founders

PETRONAS, ExxonMobil and Shell, who continue to encourage Malaysians in their pursuit of excellence.

Thank you and congratulations to all.

Wabillataufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

https://www.pmo.gov.my/?menu=speech&page=1676&news_id=692&speech_cat=2

wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera dan Salam 1 Malaysia,

YBhg. Tan Sri Mohammad Zabidi Zainal

Ketua Pengarah Perkhidmatan Awam merangkap Timbalan Yang Dipertua MAKSAK Malaysia,

YB. Datuk Obet Tawil

Setiausaha Kerajaan Negeri Johor,

YBhg. Naib-Naib Yang Dipertua MAKSAK Malaysia,

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Wabillataufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

YB. Yang Dipertua Badan-badan Gabungan MAKSAK,

YBhg. Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Puan Sri-Puan Sri, Dato'-Dato', Datin-Datin, Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan,

Para tetamu yang dihormati sekalian,

Alhamdulillah, bersyukur kita ke hadrat Allah SWT atas limpah kurnia dan keizinanNya jua, dapat kita semua berhimpun dan bermesra sempena Malam Anugerah MAKSAK Malaysia Tahun 2013 di Dataran Mahkota yang indah ini. Sesungguhnya saya amat gembira dan berbangga kerana dapat bersama-sama saudara dan saudari sekalian dalam majlis pada malam ini.

2. Terlebih dahulu saya ingin merakamkan penghargaan dan terima kasih MAKSAK kepada Kerajaan Negeri Johor dan MAKSAK Johor selaku Jawatankuasa Penganjur yang sudi menjadi hos bagi Malam Anugerah MAKSAK 2013. Untuk makluman semua hadirin, ini merupakan satu catatan sejarah buat MAKSAK apabila buat pertama kalinya Malam Anugerah MAKSAK diadakan di luar Kuala Lumpur dan Putrajaya. Syabas diucapkan.

3. Saya juga mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengalu-alukan kehadiran para tetamu serta ahli Gabungan MAKSAK, dan merakamkan ucapan terima kasih atas sokongan padu serta kerjasama erat yang telah diberikan kepada MAKSAK Malaysia dalam penganjuran program-program MAKSAK sepanjang tahun 2013.

4. Malam Anugerah MAKSAK merupakan acara tradisi tahunan MAKSAK yang bertujuan mengiktiraf komitmen badan-badan Gabungan MAKSAK yang menyertai program-program MAKSAK sepanjang tahun sebelumnya, dan meraikan kejayaan individu tertentu yang telah mengharumkan nama Perkhidmatan Awam Malaysia di kejohanan-kejohanan sukan peringkat kebangsaan dan antarabangsa. Majlis ini juga bertujuan merapatkan ikatan ukhuwah di kalangan keluarga MAKSAK di samping meraikan, dan menghargai jasa semua pihak yang menyokong program-program MAKSAK selama ini.

Saudara dan saudari yang dihormati sekalian,

5. Tahun 2013 menyaksikan MAKSAK tampil dengan beberapa perubahan yang besar, antaranya:

- Membenarkan kembali kelab sukan, dan kebajikan agensi awam untuk memohon dan menerima sumbangan daripada pihak swasta mulai 13 Februari 2013 bagi menggalakkan penganjuran program-program sukan dan sosial;
- Menghidupkan kembali Kejohanan Olahraga MAKSAK yang kali terakhir diadakan pada tahun 2001, dan memperkenalkan Kejohanan Hoki Dewan (*indoor hockey*) MAKSAK yang pertama;

- Penganjuran Larian Hari Malaysia-MAKSAK yang diadakan buat julung kalinya sempena sambutan Hari Malaysia Ke-50 di Kuching, Sarawak; dan
- Pewujudan Facebook MAKSAK Malaysia sebagai medium sosial media MAKSAK untuk mempromosi program-program MAKSAK, selain mempromosikan amalan hidup yang sihat melalui sukan kepada penjawat awam.

Saya amat gembira dengan kejayaan ini, dan tahniah saya ucapkan kepada semua yang terlibat. Kejayaan ini saya kira merupakan satu testimoni semangat kekitaan, dan kerja berpasukan yang sememangnya menjadi tunjang MAKSAK selama ini.

6. Saya juga amat berbangga melihat kejayaan atlet Perkhidmatan Awam di kejohanan sukan antarabangsa seperti Sukan SEA Ke-27 di Myanmar dan kejohanan-kejohanan sukan di peringkat Asia dan dunia. Sebagai tanda penghormatan, dan penghargaan terhadap pengorbanan dan jasa mereka kepada negara, saya telah menyampaikan Skim Insentif Sukan MAKSAK kepada 33 atlet Perkhidmatan Awam dalam satu majlis khas yang telah diadakan di Putrajaya pada minggu lepas. Insentif ini merupakan satu manifestasi dan sokongan padu MAKSAK kepada atlet Perkhidmatan Awam, dan sebagai satu bentuk motivasi bagi mereka dan atlet-atlet lain untuk terus berusaha mencapai kejayaan dalam sukan masing-masing.

7. Kehidupan yang cergas dan aktif adalah penting untuk kesihatan tubuh badan, dan seterusnya akan menghasilkan fikiran yang cergas dan minda yang segar dan progresif. Ini adalah selari dengan salah satu daripada enam prinsip utama dalam Konsep Merakyatkan Perkhidmatan Awam iaitu 'Insaniah', iaitu penjawat awam perlu menyeimbangkan antara kehidupan rohani dan kesihatan jasmani dalam cara kita bekerja demi memantapkan lagi Perkhidmatan Awam Malaysia sebagai sebuah perkhidmatan yang unggul. Saya juga menyeru semua pihak untuk menghayati prinsip-prinsip lain dalam Konsep Merakyatkan Perkhidmatan Awam iaitu keterbukaan, turun padang, musyawarah, kekitaan dan kerjasama awam-swasta-NGO, dan menjadikannya sebagai panduan dalam pelaksanaan program-program sukan, sosial dan kebajikan di jabatan masing-masing.

Para hadirin yang dihormati sekalian,

8. Selaku Yang Dipertua MAKSAK Malaysia, saya sentiasa menyokong dan komited terhadap pelaksanaan program-program yang mampu menjulang nama MAKSAK dan Perkhidmatan Awam Malaysia. Sehubungan itu, ingin saya umumkan di sini bahawa Malaysia akan menggalas tanggungjawab sebagai Pengerusi ASEAN pada tahun 2015, dan MAKSAK Malaysia telah mengambil inisiatif untuk menjadikan Malaysia sebagai tuan rumah bagi 'First ASEAN Public

Service Games' pada tahun 2015, dan saya pasti negara-negara anggota ASEAN yang lain akan memberi sokongan yang sepenuhnya, InshaAllah. Kejohanan ini bakal mengumpulkan atlet dan pegawai Perkhidmatan Awam di kalangan negara-negara anggota ASEAN dalam satu kejohanan sukan berbentuk karnival. Saya amat teruja dengan idea ini dan percaya program ini mampu melonjakkan nama MAKSAK Malaysia serta memberi peluang kepada atlet perkhidmatan awam untuk meningkatkan prestasi demi membawa nama perkhidmatan awam Malaysia di peringkat Asia Tenggara dan global. Semestinya pihak MAKSAK Malaysia memerlukan sumbangan tenaga, kepakaran dan pengalaman dalam menjayakan kejohanan ini, dan saya percaya ramai di kalangan kita yang akan menyumbang dalam penganjuran kejohanan ini dalam pelbagai kapasiti.

9. Kepada bakal penerima anugerah pada malam ini, tahniah dan syabas diucapkan. Semoga kejayaan ini akan menjadi inspirasi kepada semua atlet Perkhidmatan Awam untuk terus cemerlang dalam bidang sukan dan menjadi *role model* kepada para penjawat awam yang lain. Semoga pengiktirafan ini akan menjadi obor pembakar semangat kepada para penggiat sukan dalam perkhidmatan awam untuk terus aktif, dan menyokong pembangunan industri sukan tanahair sebagai salah satu penjana ekonomi negara. Sebagai inspirasi bersama, saya ingin memetik kata-kata lagenda bola keranjang dunia, Micheal Jordan.

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed."

10. Akhir kata, saya merakamkan ucapan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan, dan terima kasih kepada semua Ahli Jawatankuasa Kerja, Yang DiPertua MAKSAK dan Setiausaha Kehormat Badan Gabungan, dan tidak lupa juga kepada bekas kepimpinan tertinggi MAKSAK yang telah dilantik ke jawatan yang baru ataupun yang telah bersara. Terima kasih yang tidak terhingga kepada semua pihak yang bertungkus lumus di belakang tabir dalam memastikan Majlis pada malam ini berjalan dengan lancar dan meriah.

11. Melihat kepada momentum 2013, saya menaruh penuh kepercayaan bahawa program-program yang bakal diperkenal, dan dilaksanakan pada tahun 2014 akan memberi impak dan *outcome* yang diinginkan serta menjadi penghubung dalam mengeratkan tali silaturahim di kalangan penjawat awam yang berbilang kaum. Izinkan saya mengakhiri ucapan saya dengan serangkap pantun.

Dari Kluang ke Gunung Pant
Beli suasa di Kota Tinggi
Selesai sudah ucapan diberi
Di lain masa bersua lagi

Sekian,

Wabillahittaufik walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.