

Penyampai : TAN SRI DATO SERI AHMAD SARJI BIN ABDUL HAMID
Tajuk : MAJLIS KHIDMAT BAKTI DAN PENYAMPAIAN SURAT-SURAT PERLANTIKAN
Lokasi : GRAND BALLROOM, HOTEL CROWN PRINCESS, KUALA LUMPUR
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Pada malam ini kita memberi penghormatan kepada pegawai-pegawai Kerajaan yang telah memberi perkhidmatan cemerlang kepada negara, iaitu yang terdiri daripada pegawai- pegawai tentera, polis dan awam. Tiap- tiap seorang dari kalangan tuan-tuan sekalian telah mengukir nama masing- masing sebagai Panglima Angkatan Tentera, Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian, Naib Canselor, Ketua Pengarah, Pengarah dan beberapa lagi gelaran jawatan yang tidak kurang harumnya. Tiap-tiap seorang daripada tuan-tuan sekalian telah dikurniakan beberapa bintang dan darjah kebesaran dan menjadi orang-orang yang ternama di dalam masyarakat. A man has three names: the name he inherits; the name his parents gave him, and the name he makes for himself.

2. Dalam lain-lain perkataan, tuan-tuan sekalian telah bersara dalam keadaan yang amat terhormat iaitu tidak dibersarakan ataupun ditamatkan kerja. There are two very different things in this world. One is to make a good name for one's self, and the other is to keep it. Tuan-tuan haruslah bersyukur that given the honourable circumstances of your retirement - to live your life that your autograph will be wanted instead of your fingerprints. Tuan-tuan yang telah berkhidmat di dalam perkhidmatan tentera dan polis, telah menunjukkan keperwiraan yang tinggi pada menjalankan tugas masing-masing. Efficiency and fitness, respect for authority, courage, daring and endurance, these are some of the qualities of our soldiers and policemen. But there is another quality which does not belong to individuals. It is team spirit between the soldiers, policemen and the civilians in the government service in Malaysia which has contributed to the stability of this nation. Saya telah mengikuti "career-paths" masing-masing, dan Kerajaan adalah bangga di atas perkhidmatan yang tuan- tuan telah curahkan kepada negara. The most senior ones, those who have occupied very powerful positions in the military and police, and in the civil service, have played their role in the best of traditions of service to the Government of the day - the courage to speak and matched by the wisdom to listen. You have lived to be brave men and patriots, dear to God, and famous to all ages.

3. Pengalaman yang terkumpul di dalam "career spans" tuan-tuan sekalian, pada pendapat saya, perlulah dicatatkan samada di dalam memoirs masing-masing ataupun di dalam kumpulan esei-esei dan makalah-makalah yang boleh dimuatkan di dalam satu buku koleksi. Saya adalah menawarkan perkhidmatan INTAN ataupun Pustaka Perkhidmatan Awam bagi tujuan ini. Saya percaya bahawa di dalam sejarah perkhidmatan masing- masing, berbagai jenis anecdotes boleh dirakamkan supaya peristiwa-peristiwa itu menjadi pengajaran, menyampaikan sesuatu mesej ataupun semata-mata menjadi khazanah kenangan manis kepada mereka yang akan datang terkemudian daripada kita. Dalam hubungan ini, banyak peristiwa-peristiwa telah berlaku di kalangan keluarga-keluarga angkatan tentera. Those of you who had served the army, will know what I mean. You have left your wives sometimes for longer periods in the service of the country, either in operation exercises, battles, or in the pursuit of knowledge. Your wives have remained devoted to you. I would like to tell you a small story about the prolonged absence of a military husband. "An officer in the South Pacific who had been overseas sixteen months received a letter from his wife telling about a prayer their four- year old daughter made. "Dear Lord, please send me a baby brother so we will have something to surprise Daddy with when he gets home." Saya berharap bahawa Y.Bhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Abdul Rahman bin Abdul Hamid dan Y.Bhg. Puan Sri mempunyai banyak cerita-cerita lucu yang patut direkodkan.

4. Saya juga percaya bahawa Encik P. Markandan dan Dato' Yassin Jaafar pesara-pesara yang lain banyak cerita- cerita yang menarik mengenai profession masing-masing. Saya ambil contoh Encik P. Markandan di dalam weather forecasting di mana kita selalu mendengar "hujan di sana sini". I am quite sure Encik Markandan used to tell his clients: "Weathermen are never wrong - its the weather that's wrong. But there is another interesting forecast by the Meteorological Station of another country. A weather forecaster in a certain southern city in a particular country recently reported: "For tonight, I predict darkness".

5. Life has no pleasure nobler than that of friendship.

Saya adalah berharap bahawa persahabatan yang telah terjalin di antara kita dan juga di antara isteri-isteri kita setakat ini akan terus berkekalan. Bagi pihak Kerajaan Malaysia, saya ucapkan selamat bersara.