

Speech By : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
Title : MAJLIS MALAM AMAL TAHUNAN PERSATUAN PEMULIHAN ORANG-ORANG CACAT (P.P.O.C.) SELANGOR DAN WILAYAH PERSEKUTUAN (SL/WP).
Location : DEWAN NIRWANA, HOTEL HILTON, KUALA LUMPUR (KL)
Date : 21-11-1981

Mengadap:

Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Sultan Selangor;

Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tengku Ampuan Selangor, serta Kebawah Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Muda Selangor;

Kebawah Duli Yang Teramat Mulia Raja Puan Muda Selangor;

Ampun Tuanku, beribu-ribu ampun sembah patek, harap diampun.

Patik bersama dengan pacal-pacal Ahli Jawatankuasa Persatuan Pemulihan Orang-orang Cacat, Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan ingin menyembahkan setinggi-tinggi junjung kasih Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tuanku yang telah berkenan menjadi Penaung Majlis ini dan juga berangkat mencemar Duli bersama dengan Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Tengku Ampuan ke Majlis yang tidak sepertinya pada malam yang bersejarah ini.

2. Tidak syak lagi keberangkatan Kebawah Duli Tuanku membuktikan minat Kebawah Duli Tuanku berdua terhadap rakyat jelata, khususnya kebajikan rakyat yang kurang bernasib baik dan cacat.

3. Di atas minat dan perhatian rapi Baginda berdua akan tetap dikenang dan juga memberikan semangat kepada patik-patik sekalian untuk berkhidmat dengan lebih giat lagi bagi kebajikan orang-orang cacat.

4. Sesungguhnya keberangkatan Kebawah Duli Tuanku ke Majlis ini sedikit sebanyak dapat memberi bantuan moral kepada rakyat yang cacat dan juga merupakan galakan kepada para dermawan yang budiman.

Ampun Tuanku,

5. Patik mohon izin dan perkenan Ke bawah Duli Tuanku berdua untuk meneruskan ucapan patek kepada para hadirin sekalian dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

Ampun Tuanku,

Yang Amat Berhormat Perdana Menteri Malaysia;

Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Haji Omar Ong dan Toh Puan;

Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Ismail Mohd. Ali dan Toh Puan;

Yang Berhormat Dato Dr. Sulaiman Daud dan Datin;

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato Hormat Rafie dan Datin;

Yang Berhormat Dato Pathmanaban dan Datin;

Tetamu-tetamu Kehormat;

Para Dermawan yang budiman;

Tuan-tuan dan Puan-puan yang dihormati.

Bagi pihak Persatuan Pemulihan Orang-orang Cacat Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan saya mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi terima kasih atas kesudian tuan-tuan dan puan-puan menghadiri Majlis Malam Amal ini sebagai sambutan kepada jemputan rayuan Persatuan dalam usaha-usaha kami mengutip derma bagi membina Bengkel Perlindungan bagi orang-orang cacat di Jalan Kelang Lama.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. It is with great pleasure that I welcome you tonight to our Annual Charity Dinner. We are particularly honoured by the gracious presence of His Royal Highness the Sultan of Selangor and Her Royal Highness the Tengku Ampuan, whom we all know are very much concerned with the welfare of the people, in particular of the disabled. Their Royal Highnesses patronage tonight is evident of this, apart from giving encouragement to all of us in the Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, of Selangor and the Federal Territory to work more actively towards achieving our objectives for the disabled.

2. The United Nations estimates that there are more than 500 million disabled persons in the world today, of whom 45 per cent are children, 80 per cent of these children were without access to rehabilitation services of any kind. To increase public awareness of this problem and to stimulate efforts to improve facilities for the disabled, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of the Disabled Persons.

3. In Malaysia, the Ministry of Social Welfare estimated a total number of 139,000 disabled persons in 1980. This is a conservative estimate and does not tell the whole story, for disability is a family affair and affects vast numbers of people who are not themselves disabled. The existing facilities provided by both Government and voluntary bodies can cater for only a small proportion of disabled persons in this Country.

4. Commenting on education for the Disabled, the Treasury Economic Report 1981/1982 stated that only about 8.5 per cent of the disabled children within the 6 to 17 age group were receiving some form of special education in 1980. Even when the disabled person has been fortunate enough to have had

special vocational training, access to employment in the open labour market is very limited. This is partly because of the prejudice of potential employers towards the disabled, no matter how capable they are.

5. The Society is indeed very happy to note the expansion programmes of the Ministry of Welfare Services under the Fourth Malaysia Plan. In-service training and employment for those seriously disabled or other circumstances will be provided in Sheltered Workshops.

6. With the same aim, our Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled Persons, Selangor and Federal Territory is embarking on a new concept for Malaysia by establishing a sheltered factory as a joint-venture with a large manufacturing firm. The sheltered factory will have facilities such as ramps for wheelchairs, modified toilets, railings and sufficient space to enable the disabled to work and move freely. We hope to begin with 50-70 disabled persons and the factory will be managed along the lines of a normal factory, eventually and hopefully becoming financially self-sufficient.

7. This sheltered factory, therefore, is the major project of our Society. We hope it will contribute significantly in providing opportunities for the disabled to work, to be independent and to earn a good living. It is towards this end, Ladies and Gentlemen, that the society gears its activities and appeal for your kind help to which you have responded so very well tonight.

8. The Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled, Selangor and Federal Territory, wishes to express its congratulations and appreciation to the Government for its support and for again showing its commitment to the disabled as shown in its recent Budget by abolishing tax on appliances and equipment for the disabled and by allowing double tax deduction on salaries to the disabled. This last measure will provide a strong incentive to the employment of disabled persons.

9. I take this opportunity also to express our sincere and grateful thanks to the Ministry of Welfare Services for their annual grant to us and to all our generous donors and sponsors throughout the year. The Society wishes to specially mention the efforts of "Her World" Magazine of Berita Publishing Bhd. for their excellent contribution of \$109,000 i.e. 1/3 of their proceeds from a Charity Fashion Show held in May this year, and the largest single contribution ever received by our Society.

10. To all individuals, Service Organizations, Firms and Corporations who have kindly contributed in various amounts and ways, we thank you most heartily and hope that you will always remember to reserve something small in November next year for us again.

11. Finally, the Organizing Committee has often turned my Dining Hall into their Bilek Gerakan for purpose of meetings, and working, clocking in at 5.30 p.m. until 10.30 in the night much to the horror of the Prime Minister! They worked very hard for your enjoyment tonight and to them I say "thank you".

Ampun Tuanku Beribu-ribu Ampun, Sembah patik harap diampun.

Terima kasih.