

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
Tajuk : MAJLIS MALAM PERTUNJUKAN TARIAN BALET DI RAJA DARI DENMARK
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Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di Pertuan Agong dan Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Raja Permaisuri Agong.

Patik bagi pihak Jawatankuasa Persatuan Pemulihan Orang-orang Cacat Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan, atau PPOC, dan semua pegawai-pegawai dan anggota Persatuan, merafak sembah menjunjung kasih Kebawah Duli Tuanku berdua kerana berkenan berangkat mencemar Duli ke Majlis Malam Pertunjukan Tarian Balet Di Raja ini. Sesungguhnya keberangkatan Kebawah Duli Tuanku berdua menyerikan lagi Majlis ini.

2. Patik juga menjunjung kasih Kebawah Duli Yang Maha Mulia Seri Paduka Baginda Yang Di Pertuan Agong kerana telah berkenan menjadi Penaung Malam Pertunjukan Tarian Balet Di Raja ini. Ini adalah satu penghormatan yang amat besar lagi bererti dan merupakan satu pendorong yang amat kuat kepada Persatuan ini. Perhatian yang ditunjukkan oleh Kebawah Duli Tuanku terhadap kebajikan orang-orang cacat, dan juga minat Tuanku terhadap seni dan kebudayaan, merupakan satu galakan kepada patik sekalian untuk terus bergiat memajukan bidang ini dan menambahkan semangat patik sekalian untuk meningkatkan lagi khidmat bagi kebajikan orang-orang cacat.

3. Di Bawah naungan Kebawah Duli Tuanku, patik yakin, Persatuan Pemulihan Orang-orang Cacat Selangor dan Wilayah Persekutuan akan mendapat sokongan dan sambutan yang lebih bersemangat lagi daripada semua pihak.

Ampun Tuanku.

4. Patik mohon izin dan limpah perkenan Kebawah Duli Tuanku berdua untuk meneruskan ucapan patik kepada para hadirin sekalian dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

5. It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Society for the Rehabilitation of the Disabled (PPOC) Selangor and Federal Territory to welcome you all to this function tonight. This is indeed an auspicious and historical event for the Society. Your gracious presence tonight will go a long way to lighten the hearts of the disabled in this country.

6. There is a need in every individual to be self reliant. It is also a source of pride to be employed. This is especially true among the disabled. The disabled throughout the world, and also in this country, are always anxious to gain employment as a means to be self-reliant. Furthermore, we are proud that those few disabled who have been employed have proven their ability at their work. But it is a sad fact that employment opportunities for the disabled have always been restricted. Disabled persons find it difficult to

get employment especially in the private sector. The reluctance on the part of some employers to engage disabled persons is very much to be regretted.

7. It is encouraging to note that the Government has set up a few sheltered workshops with special facilities throughout the country to enable the disabled to undergo special training and to acquire skills that are required by the labour market. The facilities provided, however, has fallen short of the number of disabled persons in this country. The time has come for us to give a serious thought to the possibility of a closer cooperation and coordination between government agencies and the private sector, to pool their resources to provide adequate facilities for this unfortunate group among us.

8. To this effect the Society hopes to set up a small sheltered factory to provide employment for the disabled. This undertaking will be a joint venture with a private company which has the experience and, most of all, the sincere desire to contribute towards the disabled in this country.

On behalf of the Society I would like to express my gratitude to the Selangor State Government for having generously set aside a piece of land as the site for this factory. I would like to extend the same gratitude to the Ministry of Social Welfare and the Ministry of Trade and Industry for their assistance in this project.

9. Because of the transport problems confronting the disabled, we have also to provide accommodation at the factory site. The Project, therefore, involves the construction of a hostel building and its maintenance, as well as a factory.

10. The proceeds from tonight's Charity Performance will help the Society to realize this Project.

11. The Royal Danish Ballet has been flown in from Copenhagen to give charity performances tonight and tomorrow evening. This is the first time that the Royal Danish Ballet has come to Malaysia. We look forward to their presentations of traditional works by their famous choreographer August Bournonville, a write-up of whom and of the performers have been included in our Souvenir Programme.

12. On behalf of the Society, I would like to thank the Hong Leong Group of Companies for totally sponsoring the Ballet Group's visit to Malaysia and for their special reception. We are also grateful to the Danish Embassy Staff for their assistance in contacting the performers and also for their reception.

13. Tonight's Charity Performance would not have been possible without the guidance and assistance we received from the various government departments and agencies, the Dewan Bandaraya, and private firms who sponsored our Souvenir Programme and arranged for publicity.

14. The Society thanks all donors who have so kindly and generously responded to our appeals. We

hope you will continue to give us your support as we are still far short of reaching our target to realize our share of the Project.

16. The same gratitude is extended to our distinguished audience and ballet enthusiasts who are here tonight. The Organizing Company, with a team of volunteers, have given time, money and energy to make this evening an enjoyable one for you. Since this is the Society's first experience in organizing a Ballet Performance, we hope to be forgiven for any shortcomings and inconveniences.

16. I thank Mrs. Catherine Tan and her Company for their efforts and to those, too many to be mentioned, who worked behind the scenes.

I wish you all a happy and enjoyable evening.

Ampun Tuanku.