

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
Tajuk : MAJLIS PELANCARAN KALENDAR KORPORAT SHELL 1996 BERTEMA "HOESSEIN ENAS DALAM KENANGAN"
Lokasi : SHELL THEATRETTE, BANGUNAN SHELL, KUALA LUMPUR
Tarikh : 30-11-1995

1. Saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Shell Malaysia kerana sudi menjemput saya dan seterusnya merasmikan pelancaran kalendar korporat Shell tahun 1996 pada pagi ini.

2. Seni dan lukisan atau `art' begitu abstrak menjadikan orang ramai senang lupa kepada nilai dan peranannya dalam kehidupan kita sehari-hari. Tetapi bagi Shell, saya lihat syarikat ini berasa senang sekali dan terus memberi penghargaan serta tempat yang bermakna kepada karya-karya seni lukis tempatan.

One thing praiseworthy is that Shell has indulged in this since the post Merdeka period. Today, you are reliving that wonderful association and experience with a world class Malaysian artist, Allahyarham Datuk Hoessein Enas. I must commend Shell Malaysia for its initiative and thoughtfulness in dedicating a special tribute to the late Datuk Hoessein Enas by way of remembering his classic works in the company's corporate calendar for 1996.

3. The late Datuk Hoessein Enas was one of Malaysia's renowned pioneer artists and long regarded as the Father of Malaysia's Portrait Painting. He was the leading exponent of portraiture and genre painting in oils, and without equal in pastel, one of the most, if not the most, challenging media to work with. His talent in bringing his art to life and dedication to perfection had earned him international recognition and repute.

4. Datuk Hoessein Enas was deeply interested in people as human beings. He did his utmost to create the `real person' in the medium by bringing to life the thoughts and emotions of the people he painted.

Datuk Hoessein's virtuosity in portraiture gained recognition and appreciation with art connoisseurs.

Among the early patrons and supporters of Datuk Hoessein was Shell, which in 1963 had commissioned him to create a collection of paintings, depicting Malaysians from all walks of life, ranging from the first-elected king to the ubiquitous satay-seller.

Some of these masterpieces are being displayed today to commemorate Datuk Hoessein's exquisite talent.

5. I am fascinated by Datuk Hoessein's paintings as I believe he was a true Malaysian at heart. His paintings, though generally aimed at simple subjects, reflect Malaysia's cultural richness and its great cultural tolerance. Each portrait has a beauty of its own and the portraits themselves almost always imbue us with a great sense of respect for people as individuals. In his own special way, Datuk Hoessein had helped to forge greater tolerance and respect among Malaysians, an invaluable contribution in our multi-racial pluralistic society.

6. Datuk Hoessein's unsurpassed mastery with brush and paint made him one of the most sought after artists. Whilst he painted landscapes and even abstracts, he in fact, excelled in painting portraits. This art form gave him ultimate aesthetic satisfaction and he went on to paint portraits of several well-known personalities in the country, which included our past rulers and statesmen. His masterpieces not only serve to remind us the contributions of both our past and present leaders but also aptly earned him the distinction of being known as `Father of Malaysian Portrait Painting'.

7. Today, Datuk Hoessein's famous paintings grace the walls of national galleries, embassies, museums, stately homes and even Shell offices worldwide. Shell's support and patronage of the arts both for the works of well-known as well as budding artists, augurs well with the government's efforts to preserve our natural and cultural heritage. This will also inspire local artists to hone their artistic skills as well as enable

an increasing number of Malaysians to appreciate art.

8. Adalah menjadi harapan saya semoga Kalendar Shell ini dapat membantu meningkatkan bilangan masyarakat yang intelek serta kaya dengan seni.

Aspirasi ini akan memperkayakan budaya negara kita dalam mendorong masyarakat antarabangsa mengenal identiti kita yang tersendiri.

9. Akhir kata, saya sekali lagi mengucapkan syabas kepada Syarikat Shell di atas daya usaha mereka selama ini menggalakkan hasil karya seni pelukis tempatan melalui kalendar tahunannya. Saya harap Shell juga akan memikirkan saluran dan cara-cara yang lain untuk meluaskan penghargaan masyarakat Malaysia terhadap kekayaan bidang seni lukis tempatan.

10. Dengan ini saya dengan sukacitanya melancarkan Kalendar Korporat Shell bagi tahun 1996.