

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI
Tajuk : MAJLIS JAMUAN TEH SALAM AIDIL FITRI DAN GONG XI FA CHAI BERSAMA
PERWAKILAN
Lokasi : CRYSTAL BALLROOM, PJ HILTON
Tarikh : 19-02-1997

1. Terlebih dahulu saya melafazkan Syukur Alhamdulillah kepada Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala atas limpah kurniaNya yang membawa pada kesempurnaan perayaan-perayaan masyarakat Malaysia pada minggu lalu dalam keadaan meriah, aman, penuh perpaduan dan disambut oleh semua masyarakat dalam negara Malaysia yang tercinta ini. Saya ucapkan Selamat Tahun Baru Cina dan Selamat Hari Raya Aidil Fitri kepada para hadirin.

2. It is indeed a pleasure to be with you on this auspicious occasion. I would like to say a special word of thanks to Datin Endon and members of Persatuan Wanita Kementerian Luar Negeri Malaysia (PERWAKILAN) for inviting me to join you in celebrating Hari Raya Aidilfitri and Chinese New Year.

3. I understand that such a function is organised annually by PERWAKILAN. It is indeed befitting that you should gather in such a festive and sociable atmosphere to mingle and interact across cultures. Afterall, every member of PERWAKILAN, I'm sure, is aware of her vital role to make Malaysia better known to the international community.

4. Our country has had the good fortune to celebrate the Chinese New Year and Hari Raya Aidilfitri within a week.

The Muslims completed a whole month of fasting in the month of Ramadan before they rejoiced in the festivities of Aidilfitri, whilst our Chinese friends welcomed the Year of the Ox, two days earlier. It is indeed wonderful to experience the sharing of the festive mood. In fact in Malaysia we have the privilege of sharing in the festivals of all the ethnic groups - this is a truly rare and unique experience. Alhamdulillah.

5. Ladies, as we prepare ourselves for the twenty-first century, let us remind ourselves that along with technological advancement there has to be development of the humanistic elements. Our young and old alike need to be imbued with the right values to ensure balance and harmony in our pursuit of industrial advancement. We need to sensitise our people to cross-cultural differences to enhance the levels of tolerance and understanding among the peoples in Malaysia and those abroad. Soon we will be part of the global village.

6. To our guests from the Diplomatic Community, I say "welcome" to Malaysia and its diversified language, customs, cultures and religion. There may be aspects of our country and people which you are not familiar with or sensitised to. So I hope you would make the most of your stay here by knowing us. By doing this you will gain a lot of understanding and insight of the Malaysian way of life. I would urge you to go out to the countryside, to the islands, the seas and the jungles and enjoy fully our beautiful country.

7. My congratulations to Datin Endon and members of PERWAKILAN for being able to bring together such a distinguished gathering of people. I appreciate the hard work you have put to produce such an interesting programme for this afternoon.

8. I look forward to your performance and I thank the Organising Committee again for having me at this function.