

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD. ALI  
Tajuk : MAJLIS PERASMIAN DEWAN FILHARMONIK PETRONAS  
Lokasi : KUALA LUMPUR  
Tarikh : 17-08-1998

Terlebih dahulu saya mengucapkan berbilang terima kasih kepada PETRONAS kerana menjemput saya untuk merasmikan pembukaan Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS.

2. Majlis ini merupakan satu peristiwa bersejarah yang membawa pengertian yang besar dalam usaha kita membangun serta memajukan kebudayaan negara. Saya berasa terharu dan gembira mendapat peluang melancarkan projek ini yang pastinya akan membantu memperkukuhkan pembangunan keseluruhan negara kita yang tercinta.

3. The official opening of the Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS and the inaugural performance of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra (MPO) are indeed an achievement of another Malaysian dream. This event is the culmination of efforts long awaited by Malaysians to foster a sustainable development of music in this country.

4. Malaysia, being a multi-cultural nation, has inherited diverse musical traditions which have made this country rich in rhythms, melodies and harmonies.

This uniqueness has always been cherished by many, locals as well as foreigners. The completion of Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS and the establishment of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra present yet another avenue to Malaysians and visiting music enthusiasts to experience and enjoy live performances of some of the best in classical music in the best architectural and acoustic environment. This long-awaited development, complemented with concerts by other international orchestras, ensembles and soloists, together with performances by PETRONAS' own Performing Arts Group will certainly help Malaysia to play a role in the international music and arts world.

5. While Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS will provide the facility we have been waiting for, the establishment of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra will fulfil another long-left need in the development of music enjoyment and music education. The younger generation of Malaysia has shown a growing interest in the arts and music which augurs well for the development of music in this country. We already have over 40,000 students taking music examinations yearly. The setting up of the Malaysian Philharmonic Orchestra will provide exposure and encouragement to Malaysians. The MPO will also undertake to conduct master classes, workshops and other musical activities to nurture and assist aspiring musicians in their strive for excellence. It is our hope that these initiatives will pave the way for the establishment of a music academy to upgrade music skills, knowledge and education to a truly professional level.

6. We have indeed arrived at another major milestone in our progress towards achieving the cultural agenda set out in Vision 2020. I must congratulate PETRONAS for its role in this development. However, this initiative will require the support of everyone to ensure its success. I would like to take this opportunity to call on all interested parties to support this venture for the benefit of our people and the nation.

7. On that note, I declare the Dewan Filharmonik PETRONAS open.