

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD ALI  
Tajuk : MAJLIS KONVOKESYEN INSTITUT HELP  
Lokasi : HOTEL SHANGRI-LA, KUALA LUMPUR  
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Saya mengucapkan berbilang terima kasih kepada Institut HELP kerana memberi penghormatan kepada saya petang ini untuk berucap dan menyampaikan ijazah- ijazah dan diploma-diploma kepada 1,500 graduan. Saya mengambil kesempatan ini untuk mengucapkan tahniah kepada mereka, terutamanya kepada graduan yang akan menerima anugerah-anugerah cemerlang dari Universiti London.

2. Kejayaan setiap graduan bukan sahaja membanggakan graduan itu sendiri tetapi sama di kongsi oleh ibu-bapa dan keluarga, masyarakat, warga kampus dan negara.

Syabas! 3. May the Blessings of Peace be upon us all today on this auspicious occasion.

4. Forty-four years ago, I walked up the stage in a similar cap and gown as I am wearing today to receive my medical degree from Chancellor Sir Malcom MacDonald of University Malaya, then in Singapore. It was a very proud moment for my parents and family, friends and teachers. It was the biggest moment of my life, as it depicted the ultimate achievement of success through hard work, determination and discipline, intermingled often with hopelessness, failures, loss of confidence and despair.

5. As your name comes through the speakers for everyone to hear, you realise that it is no longer a nightmare but a wonderful dream come true. It is an assuring moment and a joyous one for you and your family.

6. Convocation, to graduands, are important because they pay tribute to the fulfilment of one's achievement. You have fulfilled an ambition, out of many that you probably may have. So on this historical day, there should be a sense of pride and happiness and lots more of confidence and determination.

7. When I had mine 44 years ago, there were multiple emotions. The sense of elation and pride superseded other emotions. Being the only Malay woman to graduate in a class of 75, undoubtedly it qualified me for a big celebration but the sense of sadness and apprehension followed those of joy and happiness in a small degree.

8. The admission into an academic institution requires many supportive elements. It does not only require the basic qualification and financial support to do so but more importantly, the moral and spiritual support of parents, siblings and friends. These support often are taken for granted by young people because they are silent and not expressed.

Nevertheless, one should be grateful to the parents who have toiled with sweat and tears to see that their sons and daughters obtained their qualifications successfully.

9. Again, this convocation is a fine tribute to those parents who have sacrificed part of their lives to see that their children aspire to be what they prayed for - a qualified person contributing usefully to the well-being of the family, society and nation.

Congratulations to those caring parents and how blessed are your children.

10. When you depart from your Alma mater and friends, there is sure to be sadness and apprehension. Sadness, because the years of close rapport with teachers and mentors, and friendship and support from fellow graduands will lessen as you go your separate ways, unless there is constant contact with them. I am sure that the doors of HELP Institute, appropriate to the acronym of its full-name, are constantly open to former students for help in their future career.

Socially, graduates of Universities maintain close contact with fellow students through correspondence and Reunions. The feeling of bond of friendship initiated during the years of studying together remains intact.

Some colleagues went further in their relationship by bonding permanently in marriage. But Class Reunions are pleasant events to bring back the beautiful memories of student days. My Medical Class of 1947 remain until today a close-knit family. Reunions of high calibre initially take place every 5 years but over the years, it was made more frequent because we found more members leaving us to have Reunions in Heaven than on Earth.

May they Rest in Peace. We celebrated our 50th Anniversary Reunion 2 years ago and we are due for our annual Reunion, this year! 11. Today, 1500 young graduands will start a new life to contribute to the society and country. It is indeed a remarkable tribute to HELP Institute which has provided the facilities and the expertise in the training of young people. From a humble beginning in 1986 in Kampung Attap, HELP has emerged as a dynamic spirit that pervades the private education sector in Malaysia. With the cooperation and assistance from foreign universities and continued support from them, local education institutions will be able to produce highly trained, skilled, versatile, caring and effective young executives. It is the nation's aspiration to meet the goals of Vision 2020 as enunciated by the Prime Minister.

12. Apart from the academic excellence, it becomes more pertinent and important for young executives of the future to be constantly reminded of the top priorities given to excellent human relations and social values. Living in a multiracial society such as ours, it becomes imperative to understand one another in terms of our individual culture and traditions, of being sensitive to issues that may cause disruption, and of being tolerant to certain idiosyncrasies. A young executive in this era of change will face more challenges in the new millennium but the basic values and concepts of human relations should remain the same.

13. Malaysia is very proud of its uniqueness in having a multiracial society living in harmony. You, young graduands, will be responsible to keep this racial harmony permanent in our country, Malaysia. Your fathers, grand-fathers and great-grandfathers are and were, the founders of this racial harmony and stability.

14. I am very confident that you will go forth with your skills to be self-reliant, positively motivated into facing the challenges and transforming them into golden opportunities. The opportunities are there. It is up to you to bravely pursue it with intelligence, understanding and determination to build up another success story for yourself. An understanding young executive, sympathetic to the feelings of his colleagues and subordinates, having close rapport with them, and at the same time respecting the social values that we Malaysians always have and practised, such young executive graduates of today's convocation, will be the epic of the aspiration and prayers of parents, families, friends and teachers present in this Hall today.

15. Sekali lagi saya mengucapkan terima kasih kepada Institut HELP kerana menjemput saya. Saya ucapkan tahniah dan syabas kepada semua graduan dan ibu-bapa mereka. Semoga Allah Subhanahu wa Ta'ala memberkati kejayaan para graduan dan memberi taufik dan hidayahNya untuk hidup selesa dan maju jaya!