

Penyampai : DATIN SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI MOHD ALI
Tajuk : MAJLIS KONSERT GALA CHARITY : "THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD FOR PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING"
Lokasi : HOTEL ISTANA, KUALA LUMPUR
Tarikh : 23-03-1999

Saya berasa gembira kerana dijemput untuk memberi ucapan di Majlis Malam Amal ini yang berupa suatu gala konsert untuk mengutip derma bagi kebajikan kanak-kanak, khususnya di wad kanak-kanak di Hospital Tengku Ampuan Rahimah di Kelang, dimana alat-alat yang boleh menyelamatkan nyawa kanak-kanak yang sakit amat diperlukan.

2. Saya ingin mengucapkan syabas dan tahniah kepada Rotary Anns dari Kelab Rotary Damansara kerana berusaha mengelolakan Gala Konsert ini sebagai melaksanakan impian mereka dan tema Rotary tahun ini, iaitu 'Follow Your Rotary Dream.'

3. Every child has a dream, but unfortunately, not every child's dream could come true unless, they are assisted to have their dreams fulfilled.

4. Some children are born blessed with all the good fortune of having everything from normal physical and mental development to their continued well-being. They have loving and caring parents who ensure that their continued growth and development guarantee them a healthy and happy childhood up to adolescence and adulthood.

5. We know that many children need special care from the very first day they were born. Congenital conditions, pre-natal infections, trauma and some hereditary conditions, afflict the children. Those detected early enough to begin treatment or special management could be saved and will survive even to adulthood.

6. With the advance of scientific technologies, sophisticated equipment and instruments have been invented to monitor, detect and investigate various conditions in a human being even as early as 4 months of gestation. In addition, sophisticated equipment are invented and developed into saving the lives of babies at birth and infants.

7. I certainly commend the efforts made by Rotary Anns of Damansara Rotary Club for their decision to help in saving children's lives by donating special life-saving equipment to the Paediatric Ward. They will not only help to fulfill the mother's dream of having a live child but also to give the opportunity to the child to live her own dream in the future.

8. We are grateful to the Almighty that we are blessed with a Government which has the welfare of the nation ranking top in its priorities. The attitude of 'caring' is stressed in the Vision 2020. Despite the challenging conditions confronting our nation, the Government is undeterred and has devised many innovative plans to pull us through the economic slow-down. The welfare of the people is paramount for only from it comes stability, peace and economic development. Men, women and children can therefore enjoy the benefits from such an environment.

9. However, it is not possible for the Government alone to give and sustain the efforts made to care for the people. The Government has always welcomed the positive efforts contributed by NGOs in creating a caring and sharing society. The work of Rotary in Malaysia for the past 70 years is a strong testimony to its commitment and support for the nation and country.

10. Rotary Anns of Damansara have now shown an exemplary commitment with their many humanitarian projects over the years. I congratulate each one of you for your deep sense of commitment to the community and hope that you will continue these noble dreams that you have. You are complementing and supplementing the national efforts: an excellent example for others to emulate.

11. This Gala Concert is for peace and understanding of the children in the world. Let us hope and pray

that peace will continue to prevail in our beloved country Malaysia, and also in those countries where children are born and live in subminimal comfort and environment, where food and milk are scarce and where war, civil strife and unending sanctions prevent them - those innocent children - from fulfilling their own dreams. Let us, in all humility, pray that there will be sincere and true understanding of what peace, joy and happiness means to the children - our future generation - and to let them have it, to build our dream and theirs for a better world.