

Penyampai : DATO SERI DR. SITI HASMAH BT HJ MOHD ALI  
Tajuk : LUNCHEON IN HONOUR OF SPOUSES OF HEADS OF STATE/GOVERNMENT AND  
HEADS OF DELEGATION XIII SUMMIT OF THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT  
Lokasi : SERI PERDANA, PUTRAJAYA, MALAYSIA  
Tarikh : 24-02-2003

I am delighted and honoured to be able to personally receive you today at my residence in Malaysia's Administrative Capital, Putrajaya. On behalf of the other Malaysian ladies present here, allow me to extend a very warm "Selamat Datang" to you and members of your delegation. We are indeed privileged to have such a distinguished group of ladies visiting Malaysia and look forward to getting better acquainted with you.

2. May I also take this opportunity to express the hope that your visit here would be fulfilling and memorable. We have arranged a special programme for you - one we hope would show the varied aspects of Malaysia and its people namely; its economic development, its multicultural diversity, its racial and social harmony.

I trust you had a good visit this morning to the PETRONAS Twin Towers and are now ready to relax and taste some Malaysian food. There will also be a presentation of Malaysian batik and traditional fashion while you enjoy your lunch. In addition, we have planned for you visits to our handicraft and cultural centres, an orchestra performance by talented young Malaysians from the Saad Foundation, a cultural show by our school children and a shopping trip. I believe you will also have a chance to enjoy a sampling of Malaysian culinary delights prepared for you throughout your stay here.

3. Malaysia prides itself as being a very hospitable country filled with warm and friendly people. I believe you will discover this and much more after your experience over these two days. Kuala Lumpur and Putrajaya are but a small part of this beautiful country. There are many other attractive destinations in Malaysia including historic Melaka - a short drive away, Penang in the North which is better known as "the Pearl of the Orient" or the beautiful beaches of Langkawi, Tioman Island and others in East Malaysia. I am hopeful that one day you will return to Malaysia to explore its other attractions.

4. With those words, I once again wish you a pleasant and wonderful stay in Malaysia. I am convinced that your visit here, although short, will go a long way towards promoting understanding and harmony between Malaysia and your respective countries while further enhancing the existing close and cordial relations.

5. Enjoy your lunch and the fashion show.