

Opening Remarks

By YBhg. Datin Jazliza Jamaluddin,

President Of The Ladies Association/PERWAKILAN

Of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

For Wisma Putra International Charity Bazaar

At The Institute Of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations

Kuala Lumpur

16th April 2011

YBhg Datin Sri Siti Rubiah Datuk Abdul Samad
(The Patron of the Ladies Association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia and
wife of the Minister of Foreign Affairs Malaysia)

Y.Bhg. Datuk Mohd Radzi Abdul Rahman
Secretary General

Y.Bhg Dato' Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari
Director General of the Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations,

Your Excellencies,

Tan Sri, Puan Sri,

Dato', Datin

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed a privilege, a pride and a pleasure to address this gathering of dignitaries from Malaysia and abroad as well as people from all walks of life who have come here to participate in the International Charity Bazaar. As the President of the Ladies Association of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or PERWAKILAN I extend my warm welcome to all who are here today. I also wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to all for making this event a success.

It has always been the desire of PERWAKILAN to reach out to the less fortunate and indeed this is the first time we are able to put up something of this nature and stature. I would be failing in my duty if I do not acknowledge the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and in particular, The Institute of Diplomacy and Foreign Relations (IDFR) for their role in putting everything together. My sincere appreciation goes to The Director General of IDFR, Dato' Ku Jafaar Ku Shaari for his immense support and encouragement in seeing this through. IDFR as we know is the training arm of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and as such is a hive of activity. As we heard from Datuk a few minutes ago it offers numerous courses to local and international participants all year round, besides organizing round table conferences and public lectures by reknowned personalities. In

the midst of these activities IDFR has so very graciously accepted our request to use their premises as well as take on the helm of organizing this function today. I know for a fact that without the genuine effort and commitment of all the officers and staff of IDFR this programme would not have come to fruition today. I wish to thank everyone at this Institution who has contributed in some way or other towards the realization of this project. I am, to put it simply, rather overwhelmed.

This event is a wonderful opportunity for PERWAKILAN as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to work in collaboration with the diplomatic corps and thereby forge closer links with all the participating missions. Working together for a worthy and honourable cause such as this would have long standing results which will hopefully see all parties involved embarking on more joint projects in the future.

While this International Charity Bazaar seeks to provide a platform for the participating embassies /high commissions to share and promote the cultural, political, economic and tourism potential of their respective countries, it is also the aim of this bazaar to raise funds so that we can initiate more charity endeavours, the proceeds of which will be channelled to deserving organizations. As you know the proceeds from the rental of stalls, exhibition booths, sponsorships and donations for this event would go to the pediatric wards of hospitals and other deserving organizations in and around Kuala Lumpur. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all the missions represented here.

At this point I would also like to thank all institutions of higher learning, especially the local and foreign universities and the international schools who have set up booths to promote their respective institutions. My thanks also go to travel agencies and computer firms who are here to tell us about their goods and services.

Among the other stalls we have here today are the food stalls. Indeed what an opportunity for all of us here to get a taste of international and local cuisine all under one roof as it were! So, let us not leave till we savour the huge spread of delicacies.

Besides the food fest there are also cultural performances by the foreign missions and international schools for us. So relax and enjoy a feast for the eyes.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At this juncture I would consider it appropriate to give some insight on the activities of PERWAKILAN. The Association operates under different sub-committees like:

- Hospitality
- Social
- Cultural
- Visits
- Seminars
- Welfare
- Sports
- ASEAN Ladies Circle

The primary function of these sub committees is to organize activities to develop an esprit de corps among its members so that they may be a source of encouragement and support to one another. Among the activities are visits to interesting places like the Kuala Gandah Elephant Sanctuary where members of the families were included. Grooming, dance and singing classes are provided as enrichment programmes. Tours, sports activities, visits to homes of the bereaved members and Coffee Morning sessions are all part of the repertoire of activities.

Social welfare activities are given priority. With the aim of reaching out to the needy, on 3 April 2010 members of PERWAKILAN together with the President and Vice President visited Anak-anak Yatim (Sentuhan Budi) an orphanage in Kuala Lumpur. Perwakilan donated 2 wardrobes, towels, and tooth brushes. A sum of RM 1,200 in cash was also given to the Home.

Representatives of PERWAKILAN also visited the Hospital University Kebangsaan Malaysia, Cheras on 24 November 2010 where they had the opportunity to listen to a briefing as well as visit the children's play room and the Pediatric ward. Their visit was well received by the Director and Dean of the Faculty of Medicine. PERWAKILAN had the pleasure of donating a sum of RM5,000.00 to the Hospital.

Before I close let me once again say a big thank you to all of you present here today. We value your contributions and participation and look forward to further collaborations.

Thank you.