

SPEECH BY RT. HON. DATUK SERI MOHD ALI BIN MOHD RUSTAM

PRESIDENT OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH AND CHIEF MINISTER OF MELAKA

WELCOMING DINNER

10TH MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE

“YOUTH LEADERSHIP POWER AND ITS INFLUENCE TO THE SOCIETY”

Friday 25TH JUNE 2010 AT 2000 HRS

Seri Bendahara, MELAKA

Good evening and Selamat Datang to Malaysia, MIYD and my residence tonight. It is always good to renew friendship and to make new ones. Indeed it has been a busy but exciting days for all you since your arrival here.

As the days go by we see the impact of what is happening in the world affecting our youth in so many ways. Let's face it we cannot always be there for them.

What better way there than it ism to give the liberty to take on leadership!

Leadership roles in places and areas where we could never ever get into, many of you are representing the youth of your nation, your society and world. No one can bring a better picture of hope and encouragement to them than you who are here right now. I encouraged you to be like a sponge and absorb all that you can and able to so that you can share the things you have heard and seen in this year 10th Melaka International Youth Dialogue.

These last two days you have heard from all the speakers and I applaud them for challenging and encouraging all of us. As the saying goes "*chew on the meat and spit out the bones when you are eating fish*". The many ideas that you have heard yesterday and today take and remember what would be workable for you to take home and apply to your organization, youth group, youth council and even the NGO groups in your countries.

WAY has always been here for you and we will continue to be the place of resource and assistance for you. The theme, the topics and the selections of speakers and activities have been chosen specifically to meet the needs of the hour!

Tonight the Drafting Declaration Committee will meet to discuss the crucial and significant factor that needs to be in the Declaration. Tomorrow you be able to vote for and realized that you have become part of the history of the 10th MIYD.

I am ever so delighted to the fact that MIYD is held in Melaka. Permit me, to share with you some facts about this great State that we are in.

Melaka is world-renown for her long history, historical sites, cultures and cuisines where she has charmed numerous visitors to her shores since her founding in the 15th Century AD. On 7th July 2008, Melaka were listed in the UNESCO World Heritage Cities List under "Historic Cities in the Straits of Malacca". This is certainly an historic day for Melaka in particular and Malaysia in general. Melaka was recognized as World Heritage Cites. Melaka do not only belong to Malaysia now BUT to the whole World now.

8.9 MILLION VISITORS VISITED MELAKA IN 2009 were charmed by the many different aspects of history, the people group, the many traditional foods and the blending of it all to bring into being an exciting place.

Tomorrow, I believe will be an adventurous time for all of you as you go on the tours that have been set up for you. Take as many pictures you can, enjoy the scenery, smell the aroma of various cuisine.

Lastly, I wish you a very pleasant stay here in Melaka and take all you can from the different moments you will encounter while being here.

Tonight, enjoy the dinner, the camaraderie and the entertainment prepared for you.

Thank you!