

**SPEECH BY MISS EDIOLA PASHOLLARI**

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**AT THE CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE**

**10<sup>TH</sup> MELAKA INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DIALOGUE**

**“YOUTH LEADERSHIP POWER AND ITS INFLUENCE TO THE SOCIETY”**

**SATURDAY 26<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2010 AT 2000 HRS**

**MELAKA**

Ladies and gentlemen,

Hello everyone! What an exciting few days we have had! I trust that you have enjoyed the food, the trips around Melaka and making new friends. Most of all is that we have all arrived at a decision as we met to discuss and declare our position on **“YOUTH LEADERSHIP POWER AND ITS INFLUENCE TO THE SOCIETY”**. Thank you so much for all your contributions in the deliberation and dialogue.

The global youth is destined to take over from the generation that founded the youth program and leading the masses with their great strength, requires a vanguard that is convincing and that has a capacity for mobilization through personal example; a vanguard headed by firm, capable and prestigious leaders, true leaders and not improvised leaders; leaders who have been through the many waves that the world has to offer the youth.

It has been rewarding to listen to many of you here directly linked to productive activities and proudly explain in simple words what they do, barely mentioning the material difficulties and bureaucratic obstacles they must face in taking their place in society and to be heard.

Some are very critical about the youth of today while forgetting that they were young, too. It would be naive to pretend that the new generations are the same as those of past times. A wise proverb goes: A man resembles his times more than he does his parents.

There are youths all over our organizations with the necessary disposition and capacity to take on leading positions. The challenge is to find them, to train them and to gradually assign them greater responsibilities. Their counterparts will confirm if the selection was right.

Believing in the youth is seeing in them not only enthusiasm but capacity; not only energy but responsibility; not only youth, but purity, heroism, character, willpower, love for their homeland, faith in their leaders and confidence in themselves! It is the deep conviction that the youth can do it, that the youth is capable of doing it; the deep conviction that the youth can carry on great tasks.

That's how it was yesterday, how it is today and how it will continue to be in the future. In practical ways, the youth of our world must seek to develop themselves so as to work in more effective and efficient ways towards a new reality. This can be achieved through youth empowerment, through programs such as the skills development of youth. This continues to be a priority and part of the battle that needs to be fought for the full attainment of their freedom.

We must encourage our youth to enter the business sector earlier in their lives. Thus, various youth entrepreneurship program of government are aimed at providing business development services and funding support to the young entrepreneurs from both genders.

As the present leaders we should call upon our youth in all their formations across the country to commit themselves of these developments and to play a catalytic role in ensuring that they access these programs for their communities.

When we call on our youth to be fully part of the programs and to lend a hand and volunteer their services for collective developments, we are saying that they themselves are among the most important agents of change.

Our youth must be conscious participants in community programs, in caring for the aged and disabled, for those who are suffering from HIV/AIDS and other diseases.

Community youth service is also important because it is through these selfless deeds, that our youth attain technical expertise and life skills, while at the same time, they are developing their communities.

Our youth must be among those who offer their services to government departments to perform volunteer work.

The youth must answer the call for leadership! We are transforming ideas for change, implementing action plans so that the youth of our generation will be able not only to dream at night about a better future but also use knowledge,

skills, infrastructure and resources to make that dream of a better life a real and living reality.

The youth ought to be at the vanguard of the popular movement towards youth renewal and demonstrate their commitment in education, in health, in addressing unemployment and in skills development.

We must strive to prepare them to take over the leadership from us some day and do even more than we are doing now to modernize our economy, to build our society, to make us equal competitors in the global information age and greatly influence our society to change

Let us together lend a hand to broaden access to a better life for our youth.

Without a shadow of a doubt as we begin to relinquish our control and fears in regards to the capabilities of our youth and grant them the opportunity to be train and prepared for leadership, they will soar and soar high.

As we depart from Melaka and from this dialogue let us make a promise to ourselves that we will be the catalyst to the change required to bring for the leadership abilities and power on youth.

Bon Voyage and we will see you next year for another great dialogue.

My heartfelt thanks to the speakers, national youth leaders, volunteers, youth organizations and to all that has worked together to make this dialogue a success.

Thank you, thank you.