

**SPEECH BY YAB DATUK SERI HJ MOHD ALI BIN MOHD RUSTAM  
AT THE WORLD ASSEMBLY OF YOUTH GALA DINNER,**

**27 JUNE 2007  
MITC HOTEL, AYER KEROH, MELAKA, MALAYSIA**

Honourable Pohamba Shifeta  
Deputy Minister of Youth, National Service, Sport and Culture, Namibia

Honourable Dr Edwin Muguti  
Deputy Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Zimbabwe

Honourable Moammar Al-Eryani  
First Deputy Minister of Youth and Sports, Yemen

YB Datuk R. Raghavan  
State Executive Councillor for Youth and Sports, Melaka State Government

YB Datuk Idris Harun  
President of the Melaka State Youth Council and Deputy President of the  
Malaysian Youth Council

Senior Assistant Commissioner 1 Dato' Mortadza bin Nazarene  
Chief of Police, Melaka  
Represented by Superintendent Arif

Mr Nundkeswarsing Bossoondyal  
Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Ernesto Kesar  
Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth

Mr Donald Charumbira  
Secretary General of the World Assembly of Youth

Corporate Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen:

It gives me great pleasure to officiate at this Gala Dinner, which is an occasion to mark the end of the 7<sup>th</sup> Melaka International Youth Dialogue, as well as a

platform to appreciate the contributions of corporate sponsors to WAY fundraising efforts this year.

It is pleasing to see such a variety of young people gathered here from all corners of the world, and we appreciate the effort and time that all of you have taken to travel to Melaka and to join us in this auspicious occasion.

The World Assembly of Youth was established in August 1949 as the international coordinating body of national youth councils. Today, WAY has more than 115 member countries from all continents of the world. It is therefore the largest representative body of youth in the world.

WAY has general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and works in close cooperation with several UN agencies including UNAIDS, UNEP, ILO UNESCO, UNFPA, UNICEF and WHO.

WAY works for promotion of youth and youth organisations in programme areas such as: youth employment, environment, human rights, democracy, population, health, drugs, community development and leadership training.

The WAY headquarters has moved throughout the years to various bases including Brussels , Paris , London and Copenhagen . In 1999, the WAY headquarters moved to Kuala Lumpur , Malaysia and now has finally established its headquarters building, the World Youth Complex, in Melaka.

Some of the aims of the World Assembly of Youth are:

- To increase interethnic respect and to foster inter-cultural and international understanding and co-operation.
- To facilitate the collection of information about the needs and problems of youth.
- To disseminate information about the methods, techniques and activities of youth organisations.
- To promote the interchange of ideas between youth of all countries.
- To co-operate in the development of national youth councils of voluntary youth organisations.
- To support and encourage the national movements of non self governing countries in their struggle for national liberation.
- To promote tolerance, understanding, solidarity and co-operation among young men and women irrespective of race, sex, language, religion or political orientation and
- To encourage the full participation of young men and women in the development process of their countries.

One of the main annual programmes of the World Assembly of Youth is the Melaka International Youth Dialogue. This is an annual event at which youth leaders can exchange views, knowledge and experiences on youth development issues.

I am pleased to note that the 7<sup>th</sup> Melaka International Youth Dialogue has been successfully concluded and that participants have reported enjoying the programme. I do hope that you will all return to your countries to take advantage of the opportunities in the tourism industry.

Tonight we are also honouring the contributions to the fundraising efforts of the World Assembly of Youth. I would like to convey special thanks to the following:

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Sha Itma Construction and Engineering

More than RM100,000 was raised in the fundraising activities for the past six months. To all the corporate sponsors, thank you for your support towards the programmes and activities of the World Assembly of Youth.

To all the participants in the 7<sup>th</sup> MIYD, I hope you have enjoyed the Dialogue and have the pleasure to declare the 7<sup>th</sup> Melaka International Youth Dialogue officially closed.

Enjoy the rest of your stay in Malaysia.

I thank you.