



**SPEECH TEXT ON BEHALF OF
THE HONOURABLE DATO' SERI ANWAR BIN IBRAHIM
PRIME MINISTER**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH
THE HASANAH FORUM 2023 & THE AVPN GLOBAL
CONFERENCE 2023**

DELIVERED BY

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**22 JUNE 2023 | THURSDAY | 10.00 AM
KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE, KUALA LUMPUR**

INTRODUCTION

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very good morning.

Salutation (As per attachment)

1. First of all, the Honourable Prime Minister conveys his sincere regards to all and regrets not being able to attend this forum. Please allow me to read, on his behalf, the keynote address he has prepared earlier.
2. Salam Malaysia Madani, and thank you for inviting me to deliver this keynote address.
3. I hope this forum will provide the opportunity to share and celebrate experiences, as well as cultivate future collaborations, new ideas, and innovative solutions towards an equitable and sustainable future for all.
4. While the fundamental requirements of democracy are associated with freedom and the rule of law, no less important is the need for equality, not just in terms of equal treatment before the law but extending to equitable distribution of wealth.

5. For democracies to flourish, it is imperative to have social and economic justice so as to bring about a fair and equitable society, one where there is fairness and opportunity for all, regardless of background, going hand in hand with fair distribution of wealth and resources.

6. Hence I was quite heartened to note that The Hasanah Forum places rights and justice based giving, not only as part of their larger narrative and advocacy, but through real life action in how they give, and how they monitor and drive accountability.

7. Building a more just and equitable world requires collective efforts from individuals, communities, government and organisations. It requires implementing policies and initiatives that challenge systemic barriers and biases that perpetuate injustice.

8. Further, there must be political will in as much as politics and governance play a significant role in shaping policies, laws, and institutions that can either perpetuate or address social injustices. This is why this administration is committed to practising good governance, transparency, integrity, and accountability, which is in full consonance with Malaysia Madani.

9. As a guiding philosophy of nationhood, Malaysia Madani will take us on a continuous journey to achieve a just, equitable and humane society in pursuing the nation's development holistically, and putting the needs of the Rakyat first.

10. It is important that philanthropy moves beyond charity and becomes a key mechanism that supports social justice by addressing the root causes. The embodiment of the Malaysia Madani concept seeks to promote a sense of responsibility among citizens towards the nation's development, and encourages active participation and engagement in civic activities. This in turn fosters value-based growth and people centred mechanisms so that no one is left behind in building national and regional resilience as well as sustainable policies.

11. An economy that truly serves humanity is one that embraces social justice, protects the environment, and nurtures the well-being of the people. It is an economy that values people over profits, and seeks to create a world where dignity, fairness, and sustainability are the guiding principles.

12. Malaysia Madani encompasses the idea of a just and inclusive society, where all citizens are treated fairly and have equal opportunities, regardless of their ethnic, religious, or social background.

13. While the 6 key pillars of Malaysia Madani also encapsulate the Sustainable Development Goals, of which some progress has been achieved, the COVID-19 pandemic has unfortunately regressed some of the advances made. The pandemic has disrupted global efforts for poverty eradication, highlighting the inequalities of health accessibility among countries and regions. Nonetheless, it also provided us an opportunity to build back our resilience by putting forth a humanity-based development.

14. In this regard, ensuring the people's wellbeing is of paramount importance through a new set of philanthropic and 'impact economy' lenses. With this in mind, it is envisioned that this forum, aptly themed as 'Fostering Justice-based Philanthropy: Shifting the Narrative to Action', will serve as a platform to realise the spirit of Madani, not only for Malaysia, but for a stronger regional partnership that will enrich mutual investments and cooperation.

15. The challenges of the 21st century are marked by significant changes that have rendered some of the traditional structures and systems less adaptable and ineffective. Consequently, we need governance structures that are adaptable and flexible that would ensure fairness and justice.

16. The global economic landscape has shifted, not only on account of the COVID-19 pandemic, but also with the rise of digital economies, the Fourth Industrial Revolution, artificial intelligence, and knowledge-based industries. In addition to these are the geopolitical convulsions caused by the emerging conflicts and tensions across the globe, while globalisation has also made us all the more interlinked and interdependent.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

17. We cannot deny that there is growing demand for greater transparency, accountability and accessibility for participatory governance, where citizens are increasingly seeking inclusive government structures that allow for meaningful engagement to address issues such as corruption, political reform, and human rights.

18. We are also facing the urgent need to address climate change and other environmental issues that require innovative and transformative approaches. Traditional structures and policies often struggle to keep pace with the speed and scale of action required to mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, and transition to sustainable development.

19. While tackling global issues, I remain cognisant of being invested in our next generation. It is in that spirit that the government remains most concerned about the globally declining mental health conditions of our youth, and Malaysia, regrettably, is no different. Addressing mental wellbeing is ever more pressing with latest statistics suggesting our youth has indicated higher levels of stress, anxiety and depression. Based on the National Health and Morbidity survey (NHMS) 2022, suicidal thoughts among adolescents have been growing for the past decade – in 2017, it was 10 percent, and this has risen to 13 percent in 2022. Depression has also been increasing with latest numbers indicating 1 in 4 adolescents are depressed. I imagine the numbers must be rising as well in other countries.

20. It is especially crucial for our youth to have access to the right resources and to safe avenues for treatment, as it is our young women and young men who are the future of Malaysia and of all the countries represented here today.

21. As such, allow me to take this opportunity to offer my heartiest congratulations to Yayasan Hasanah and to the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network for taking the important stride of tackling mental wellbeing amongst our youth in Asia today. [Shortly, YB Hannah Yeoh will be announcing the establishment of the Asian Youth Mental Wellbeing Philanthropic Pooled Fund.]

22. The purpose of this fund is to increase the accessibility of mental health services across Malaysian and across the region by encouraging and mobilising more capital alongside facilitating conversations among donors.

Ladies and gentlemen,

23. We are stronger when we move together. The same can be said for a nation to continue developing, which requires the concerted effort of all stakeholders in creating sustainable and meaningful impact.

24. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Yayasan Hasanah for becoming Malaysia's leading independent grant-making foundation and have been pivotal in bridging the gap between civil societies, local communities and corporations - a true model of success of public-private-philanthropic partnerships

25. For 2023, I am pleased to announce another matching grant partnership with Yayasan Hasanah of RM50 million for the implementation of Hasanah Special Grant 4. This partnership has enabled the largest funding to civil society and social

enterprises from the government and I am appreciative for the support and leadership of Yayasan Hasanah and Khazanah Nasional.

26. Hasanah Special Grants also enabled significant growth in income generation amongst vulnerable communities. We have seen the emergence of success stories of local grassroots start-ups and social and impact businesses, through collaborative efforts contributing to increasing Malaysia's economic competitiveness and building national resilience while delivering socioeconomic benefits and impacts for the people.

27. Khazanah Nasional has launched the Future Malaysia Programme, an initiative under its Dana Impak mandate, which supports the local startup ecosystem of entrepreneurs, start-ups, venture capital, and corporate venture programmes through domestic and international collaborations.

28. Dana Impak is a RM6 billion commitment over five years and is a key pillar under Khazanah's Advancing Malaysia strategy, seeking to invest across six themes based on issues and challenges facing the nation.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

29. I hope the new information shared and learnt these past few days will accelerate the process of transforming ideas into actions – in creating a just, equitable and inclusive society for our nation and the region.

30. Thank you .