



KEYNOTE ADDRESS

**YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY BINTI SHUKRI
MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

PROGRAM

**EMPOWERING LIVES, EXPANDING HORIZONS:
THE REACH INDEPENDENCE & SUSTAINABLE ENTREPRENEURSHIP
(RISE) CELEBRATION OF DISABILITY INCLUSION EVENT**

LOCATION / DATE / TIME

**MENARA MAYBANK, JALAN TUN PERAK, KUALA LUMPUR
3 DECEMBER 2025 (WEDNESDAY)
2.00PM**

Updated 2 December 2025

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

(SALUTASI)

SALUTATIONS TO BE ATTACHED

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Salam Sejahtera and Salam Malaysia MADANI,

1. First of all, I would like to express my appreciation to Maybank and its social impact arm, Maybank Foundation, for inviting me to witness today's event featuring Maybank's Reach Independence & Sustainable Entrepreneurship (R.I.S.E.) programme.

2. I was made to understand that R.I.S.E. is celebrating a decade of sustainable impact by economically empowering the marginalised communities in Malaysia and ASEAN, particularly persons with disabilities or PWDs. This gathering is not only a commemoration of the programme's journey but pays tribute to all its beneficiaries.

3. As we mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, this gathering serves as a powerful reminder that our commitment to inclusion must be lived every day. It must be visible in the opportunities we create, the voices we amplify, and the communities we uplift.

APPRECIATION TO MAYBANK & MAYBANK FOUNDATION

4. Allow me to express my heartfelt appreciation to Maybank and the Maybank Foundation for inviting me to be part of this special occasion. For ten years, the **Reach Independence & Sustainable Entrepreneurship (R.I.S.E.)** programme has stood as a testament to what meaningful partnership can achieve.

5. I am informed that R.I.S.E. has empowered more than **49,000 individuals across ASEAN** — many of them persons with disabilities — enabling them to build livelihoods, strengthen independence, and contribute confidently to society. This is the kind of sustained, people-centred investment that transforms lives and builds inclusive economies.

6. Maybank's commitment to celebrate this occasion annually, in conjunction with the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, also reflects something important: that disability inclusion is not a side initiative, but part of your institution's DNA.

7. What inspires me most about R.I.S.E. is the understanding that **true empowerment takes time**. It requires consistency, patience and a belief that every person — regardless of ability — deserves the chance to shape their own future.

8. Behind every success story are volunteers, trainers, programme officers, government agencies, ministries, and partners working hand in hand. This shared purpose is what gives R.I.S.E. its strength, and it is the same spirit we must carry into our nation's broader disability inclusion agenda.

NATIONAL COMMITMENT TO DISABILITY INCLUSION

9. At the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, we remain steadfast in strengthening the well-being and socio-economic participation of persons with disabilities. Under the MADANI Government, we have expanded support through RM1.3 billion under Budget 2025, guided by the Persons with Disabilities Act 2008, which continues to shape our policies and reforms.

10. This commitment is further reflected in **the Ministry's RM4.1 billion allocation under Budget 2026, with more than one-third dedicated specifically to PWDs.** We continue to provide financial assistance for self-employment, enabling PWDs to build meaningful and independent livelihoods. All these efforts are anchored in our international commitments, including the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), which Malaysia ratified under the 13th Malaysia Plan.

11. Our goal is clear: to ensure that persons with disabilities are not merely beneficiaries of policy, but active contributors to our economy, our national growth, and Malaysia's future

REGIONAL RESILIENCE THROUGH INCLUSION

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. Malaysia cannot move alone. The future of disability inclusion across ASEAN must be grounded in collaboration — across governments, businesses, civil society, and communities.

13. A resilient ASEAN is one where the strength of our economies reflects the strength of our inclusiveness, where our progress mirrors the diversity of our people, and every individual — regardless of background or ability — has room to grow, contribute and lead.

14. R.I.S.E. demonstrates what is possible when we work together with intention and respect. It is a reminder that when one life rises, a whole community rises with them.

15. As we celebrate ten years of R.I.S.E., I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Maybank and Maybank Foundation. This is not just a milestone; it is a legacy of empowerment, dignity and hope.

16. The Government welcomes initiatives like R.I.S.E. — initiatives that complement our work, avoid duplication, and strengthen our collective ability to deliver real socio-economic opportunities for persons with disabilities, women, senior citizens and other vulnerable groups under the 13th Malaysia Plan.

17. Let us continue to build a Malaysia where inclusion is lived, not just promised; where opportunities are shared, not reserved; and where every individual is empowered to shape their own horizon.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

YB DATO' SRI HAJAH NANCY BINTI SHUKRI
Minister of Women, Family & Community Development
3 December 2025