



**SPEECH BY YAB TUN DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA *Cum* PRESIDENT OF ST. JOHN AMBULANCE OF
MALAYSIA**

**GRAND BANQUET DINNER
IN-CONJUNCTION WITH THE 111TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION OF THE ST. JOHN
AMBULANCE OF MALAYSIA
ON 20 JULY 2019 (SATURDAY), AT 08.30 PM AT THE KLANG HOKKIEN ASSOCIATION
JALAN BATU TIGA LAMA, KLANG**

1. First of all, I would like to thank the Commander-in-Chief, Dato' Lai See Ming and his fellow officers for inviting me to celebrate the 111th anniversary of St. John Ambulance of Malaysia.
2. It also gives me great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to all St. John Ambulance delegates who are attending the inaugural Asia Pacific Regional Youth First Aid Competition and 32nd Malaysia-Singapore First Aid & Nursing Competition. Welcome to Malaysia.
3. I am delighted to note that St. John Ambulance has been serving the people of this country for a truly amazing duration of 111 years.
4. It is indeed great to see the progress made by St. John Ambulance. On several occasions I have had the opportunity to meet many dedicated volunteers and learned about the good work your organisation has carried out.
5. And more than a century of service is not something we will come by every day. It is indeed a remarkable milestone that not many others can emulate easily.
6. Today, St. John Ambulance of Malaysia is synonymous with providing first-aid standby service and training, nursing care, dialysis service and emergency ambulance service to all walks of life, at sports events and mass social gatherings.
7. First Aid plays a very critical role in helping to sustain the lives of those who suffer from injury. Such assistance can be a crucial improvement to the medical outcome before medical help arrived. In numerous instances, it can also mean the difference between life and death.
8. The Malaysian Government encourages everyone to learn first aid. One of the significant contribution of St. John Ambulance is their tireless effort in equipping Malaysians, especially the younger generation, with first aid and nursing care skills.
9. Through such effort, the young are trained in this life-saving skills and in this process, they too learn about leadership, teamwork, perseverance and relationship management which is very crucial in our nation-building.
10. In the end, these young volunteers will develop strong values of compassion, kindness and humility.
11. Therefore, I would encourage all Malaysians to support and give your services to organisations such as St. John Ambulance so that together we can really make a difference in our community and help those who are in need.

12. To the volunteers of St. John Ambulance, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your great contribution to the “rakyat” and to your nation.
13. It is a constant reminder to us all that volunteerism is still alive and it will continue to live albeit the rapid development and changes that our nation and society are undergoing.
14. Let us walk hand-in-hand and work together to bring about change, progress, success and better social safety net for those who are in need.
15. To our overseas guests, I hope you will be able to experience the Malaysian hospitality and diversity, and experience a meaningful stay that will always beckon you to return later on.
16. Hopefully, the friendship you forge will be cherished and most importantly, continue to work together to uphold your motto “for the service of mankind”.
17. It is my hope that the organisation will continue to meet the communities’ needs effectively and play your part in the nation-building exercise in years to come.
18. I wish St. John Ambulance many more centuries of achievements to come and continue to be an exemplar of “service above self”.

Thank you.