



**MINISTRY OF NATIONAL UNITY**

**SPEECH**

**THE HONOURABLE DATUK AARON AGO DAGANG  
MINISTER OF NATIONAL UNITY OF MALAYSIA**

**YSS STRATEGIC PARTNERS APPRECIATION NIGHT AND  
THE SIGNING OF THE MEMORANDUM OF  
UNDERSTANDING (MoU) BETWEEN YAYASAN  
*SUKARELAWAN SISWA* (YSS) AND THE HO CHI MINH  
CITY YOUTH UNION**

**19 FEBRUARY 2025**

**BALLROOM VIVATEL HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR**

*Salam Sejahtera and Salam Perpaduan Malaysia MADANI,*

## **SALUTATION**

*\*Latest Salutation prepared separately*

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. It is an honour and privilege for me to be here this evening to inaugurate the **Strategic Partners Appreciation Night organised by Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa (YSS)**.
2. Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa (YSS) has been at the forefront of mobilising Malaysian youth in various volunteer activities both domestically and internationally. As of today, YSS has nurtured **2,067 student volunteers alumni** along with the appointment of **305 Unity Agents** in 2024 who spearheaded lifelong volunteerism and youth talent development representing all quarters and higher learning institutions.
3. Since its establishment, YSS has already devised **73 high-impact missions**, including **19** international student volunteer missions to several ASEAN member states such as Indonesia, Vietnam and Lao PDR, accompanied by **more than 8,000 community projects** that significantly improved the livelihood of **more than 1 million beneficiaries** locally and overseas.

4. I was also informed that YSS' capacity building and leadership empowerment initiatives are far-reaching in the Southeast Asia region, having Timor-Leste as a ground for the previous **Volunteer Leadership Development Programme (VLDP)** in July 2024 that closely engaged with the Timorese universities and **more than 70 Future ASEAN Leaders**.
5. Through YSS vast network and rapport built with its domestic and international partners, YSS aspires to become a global hub for youth leadership within a conducive volunteering ecosystem.

## **MALAYSIA'S ASEAN CHAIRMANSHIP AND NATIONAL UNITY**

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. As Malaysia assumes the **ASEAN Chairmanship** this year under the theme "**Inclusivity and Sustainability,**" we wholeheartedly represent the audacity of hope, commitment, and socio-economic progress in fostering **regional peace, stability, and prosperity**.
7. In support of this notion, the Malaysia's Ministry of National Unity lauds collective and accentuated endeavours from all quarters dedicated to prospering a harmonious and well-

developed civil society based on the concept of **nation-state**, wherein the people and the governing bodies work synergistically to elevate our **national identity** and legitimacy.

8. The integration of “**Harmony in Diversity**” as our latest aspiration in the national context further revolutionises our National Unity Agenda through various approaches aimed at empowering our unity ecosystem, Rukun Negara exploration, socio-cultural development, and *Harmoni MADANI* initiatives.
9. **Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa (YSS)**, under the auspices of the Ministry of National Unity, bridges youth development and its alumni volunteer network with various volunteering organisations globally through the internationalisation and expansion of its missions from the national to the international arena.

## **MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. This evening, we are about to witness a stronger and fortified youth volunteerism network as we enter into a collective agreement through a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** forged between YSS and its prominent domestic and international strategic partners:

- I. **Ho Chi Minh City Youth Union,**
- II. **Department of Federal Territories,**
- III. **Talent Corporation Malaysia Berhad (TalentCorp),**
- IV. **Malaysian Youth Council, and**
- V. ***Yayasan Perkasa Siswa.***

11. We believe that this collective agreement marks a new milestone in bridging our vast regional network with those youth development sectors and volunteerism movements throughout ASEAN member states.

12. Among the focus areas outlined within the Memorandum itself centred around the **internationalisation of youth volunteerism** efforts, the **establishment of an ideal volunteerism training and development ecosystem, mutual cooperation for innovative solutions to social challenges,** and **potential youth exchange programmes** curated by the subject member states to foster inclusivity and knowledge transfers.

## **YSS STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS**

13. The collaboration between YSS and the Ho Chi Minh City Youth Union dating back to 2012 means more than just sharing the same interest and shared vision. This notion shall set both nations as an exemplary model, harnessing the power of youths today as the leaders of tomorrow to foster social and economic progress within ASEAN member states.
14. To this date, YSS has sent **509 student volunteers** to Vietnam on a series of transformative youth volunteering campaigns, community development, sustainability-driven initiatives, cultural competencies development and knowledge exchange programmes.
15. The Vietnam's **Green Summer Volunteer Campaign (GSVC)** pioneered by the Ho Chi Minh Communist Youth Union, became one of the leading platforms that enabled cross-boundary youth volunteerism efforts to thrive. In the recent GSVC 2024, **47 YSS student volunteers** had touched the lives of more than **31,000** commune members at **four (4)** districts around Ho Chi Minh City with **172** projects, accumulating an astounding **1,630** volunteering hours.

16. In addition to this bilateral relation, YSS has also been actively partnering and broadening its reach with various higher learning institutions, NGOs and relevant agencies in Malaysia, such as TalentCorp, the Malaysian Youth Council and Yayasan Perkasa Siswa for conducive and suitable youth training grounds.

17. The collaboration with the Department of Federal Territories may also be vital in spearheading YSS' community empowerment projects such as **Program Usaha Jaya Insan (PUJI)** aimed at eradicating poverty and maximising human capital development.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

18. Aligning with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 17, it is time for us to finally work hand-in-hand, charting our next way forward to rather inclusive and sustainable youth volunteerism prospects.

19. This occasion marks a stepping stone to unravelling multidisciplinary cooperation between both governments to facilitate potential youth exchange initiatives, global citizenship and addressing contemporary social challenges through community engagement, knowledge transfers and talent outsourcing.

20. Without further ado, I officially declare the commencement of YSS Strategic Partners Appreciation Night and the Signing Ceremony of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Yayasan Sukarelawan Siswa, the Ho Chi Minh City Youth Union and all of its strategic partners.

Thank you.