

14 JAN 1983

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04-3/83/01/06.

Acc. No.	NARC
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SPEECH BY MR WAN HUSSIN ZOOHRI, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY  
(HEALTH AND CULTURE), AT THE OPENING OF "TITIAN I" (BRIDGE I),  
AN EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY MEMBERS OF THE MALAYSIAN ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION,  
AT THE NATIONAL MUSEUM ON THURSDAY, 6 JANUARY 1983 AT 5.00 PM

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Singapore and Malaysia are close neighbours with long-standing ties of friendship and co-operation. There is an extensive interflow of people at different levels between our two countries. There are also frequent exchanges of views and consultations between the leaders of our two countries on matters of common interest and mutual concern to foster closer co-operation and stronger ties.

I am therefore very pleased to officiate at this exhibition by your members who are almost all leading artists in Malaysia. The exhibition is not only the first by your Association held outside Malaysia but also the first exhibition of some scale on Malaysian art to be held in Singapore.

Your exhibition theme - "Titian I" or "Bridge I" - symbolizing the bridging of cultures between countries is most appropriate and significant in the light of our close relations and the spirit of ASEAN. Artists are active and creative communicators using arts as the "media" to promote mutual understanding. The works of art by your leading artists on display here reflect Malaysia - its people, its way of life and its culture. They represent a diverse collection of creative works reflecting the state of art in Malaysia today. This exhibition will help to widen the vision and enrich the experience of our artists. It will also promote better cultural understanding between our two countries and further strengthen the close ties between us.

The holding of this exhibition in the wake of Singapore's Festival of Arts 1982 is another reminder to us of our desire to learn from others in the field of arts. Just as technological transfers have helped to uplift us industrially and economically, I have no doubt that the exposure of Singaporeans to the works of

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art by outstanding creative talents from our partners in ASEAN and other countries will help us bring about a balance between our cultural and material development.

In this regard, I must reiterate that the development of art and culture depends on the combination of four factors: official encouragement, private patronage, creative effort and public support. This is the experience of culturally advanced countries. While the government here is doing all it can to provide the encouragement needed, this alone is not enough. It must be supplemented and complemented by the other three conditions. I am glad to note that there are encouraging signs in recent years that more and more people are coming forward to provide these conditions for the cultural upliftment of Singapore side by side with her economic achievements.

This art exhibition by well-known Malaysian artists and other similar exhibitions in the future will certainly help to promote the appreciation of the arts among Singaporeans. I would, therefore, thank your Association for bringing this exhibition to Singapore and extend to you a warm "Selamat Datang"!

I have now the pleasure and privilege in declaring the exhibition open.

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