

UCAPAN YB DATO' SERI UTAMA DR. RAIS YATIM  
MENTERI PENERANGAN KOMUNIKASI DAN KEBUDAYAAN DI  
WORLDS BLOGGER-SOCIAL MEDIA SUMMIT 2011 DI PWTC, KUALA LUMPUR.  
15 JUN 2011

---

Bismillahirrahmanirahim. Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi taala wabarakatuh. Salam sejahtera dan Salam 1Malaysia.

Alhamdulillah. *We offer thanks to the Almighty*, saudari Pengacara Majlis, Yang Berbahagia Datuk Suhaimi Shahdan, Chairman Dawood Holdings Malaysia, Mr. Shahul Hameed bin Shaikh Dawood, *group CEO My Event International*, Saudara Shahrul, Yang Berbahagia Datuk Ibrahim Yahya, *friends from overseas representing the United States of America, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, Indonesia, the Philippines, India and not forgetting, Malaysia.*

Hadirin hadirat yang dihormati sekalian

Tentu sekali pada pagi ini saya mulakan dengan sedikit ungkapan menerusi bahasa Melayu atau bahasa Malaysia, dengan mengalu-alukan rakan-rakan para *bloggers* dari negara-negara yang disebutkan tadi dan juga dari Malaysia.

Alhamdulillah. Diharapkan apa yang disebut sebagai *summit bloggers* ini melahirkan nilai-nilai walaupun yang telah diketahui lama yang boleh diangkat mewujudkan tamadun yang lebih tinggi dan berfaedah kepada manusia.

*Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen*

Do not be alarmed due to the fact that I begin this summit by offering you a paragraph or two in bahasa Melayu. *That is simply to adress the importance of this summit. And the fact that so many of you are present here this morning, reflect in one gusto that we, the young and the not too young are combined here towards one of life's better compartment of civilisation.*

*About bloggers and blogging, who have no limit throughout the past decade of the twelve years within which we have registered the most number of people who are concerned with the environment, with politics, with culture and the life around us. Therefore the summit today is a reflection of the generation that we are in and allow me to state that categorically, that the blogging community of the world specifically the blogging community of Malaysia are to be given the encouragement to be critical of our own system, to be pointing out the loopholes of society and by all means express anything that one wishes to express; But at the same time in doing all these, perhaps the nuance of life or shall I say the variance of life calls upon us, to be just and fair in the treatment of our family, in the recognition of what is right and wrong, and within the ambit of propriety of life itself.*

*Having said that truly, I feel humbled before the leaders that have taken the significance in the life of blogging and the ICT of Malaysia. I feel humbled for example, to be noticing that Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun Dr. Mahathir is one of those among us blogging and writing in the blog for the sake of mankind. I also feel humbled but at the same time proud to know that our own Prime Minister is involved in the ICT activity himself with his friends through tweeting and through facebook activities. We have noticed that he is surrounded by people who are feeling towards society and thereby emanating a sense of belonging and at the same time, a sense of mission for society.*

*Excellencies, friends*

*Perhaps in saying all these, we would like to expose to friends here at this summit, the point of activities and the point of endowment with which Malaysia have been endowed with. We are happy to report to you, being bloggers and writers, that in Malaysia, internet users for the moment have equalled the number 17.5 million by April 2011. The total broadband subscription is almost 5 million as of June this month. Household broadband subscriptions 3.8 million, wireless broadband subscriptions 2.7 million, total 3G subscriptions almost 10 million. With this data, it only points out to the fact that the activity of writing in the cyber world or if you like blogging, is a very natural surrounding and activity. And therefore the technological*

*development which we are experiencing will no doubt contribute towards simulisational upliftment.*

*But it is a difficult thing indeed for us to be young, for us to be writing and more importantly for us to be responsible. What is the difference between writing in the blog and writing for the magazine? Writing in the blog or broadcasting over television while I may not disseminate the idea of the different, perhaps the salient, umbilical cord, is responsibility. There is a saying in jurisprudence which goes like this, "Your freedom starts where the end of the bridge of my nose ends." It's a bit muffled but having gone through that sentence, we can equate it with what Shakespeare says, "To be or not to be?" That is the question. Whether this no blurring the mind to suffer the slings and arrows of outrageous fortune or to go against a sea of troubles. Again it maybe muffled, in simple language you and I can understand. Writing in the blog or writing for newspapers, or writing for magazines or airing as broadcasting through the television and radio channels, calls for fair and just treatment.*

### *Friends*

*Controlled by authorities on news sources and information is no longer absolute in our base. Communications technologies have enabled Malaysia to obtain news and information from a variety of sources, not limited to television, radio and newspapers only. Apart from the internet, communication devices and services suggest the mobile smart phones and soon the implementation of digital television will open large areas and avenues for people all over the world to create and receive information from various sources and platforms.*

*Secondly, governments all over the world now face the challenge. The challenge of ensuring that information and content that is being disseminated through this media spaces are accurate and suitable for the majority of our populace. Information from sources that are not correctable or illegal and containing illegal matters or behaviour which is not accepted by society, you and I, and the blogging community as well, ought to focus with a sense of realization and responsibility indeed.*

*The reality today, ladies and gentlemen, is in media. In media language, the control by the few over the many, the system has faced a reversal today. Traditional controls such as regulating news and information sources have lost its effectiveness in the **light** of new alternative media platforms which we have just mentioned. As you go overseas and as you perceived the challenges these are seen not only in the horizon but right before our own eyes. What do these things do to us? The portals, blogs, websites, facebook, twitters, and the other applications. These are essentially instruments of change. If you like, these are instruments of simulisational changes.*

*Whether or not a society will conform completely to what we say through the blogging device or through the cyber language that we are so used to, would depend on how we would react, through our education, through our religions and through our cultures. While the penetrating values from outside of each country is ongoing by the day, we must equip ourselves with the inner strength of choosing which is the better or which is the best for our society. You will notice that in all these sentences which I have delivered this morning, we are balancing the need of society. We are telling our families and our people that we have a job to do in the life that we choose. And to use those maxims which I have just used either from Shakespeare or from the jurist, they all conformed to the need of making life better. If by what you write and if by what we think and disseminate, life is better, perhaps that would be a good yardstick.*

*Let us go a bit further. Blogging is a new phenomenon actually and in our perception, it was fashionable some 12 years ago. And for the last one decade, blogging has become part of daily activities outside of the print media. Indeed the thousands upon thousands of writers, we would like to ask how many of them are actually trained through journalism, through the ethics of good writing. Not to mention the creative part but the guiding, good responsible writing through blogging. Perhaps we should consider this part of the summit. I say this because there is a need for us to have effective good writers in the blogging world and not simply symbols of attacks towards certain **quarters**.. They say, while you attack, you must defend and while you defend, sometimes you have to give the broadsides. So this is a balance and the gist of the value system is to arrive at a premise where life becomes*

questionable, but at the same time, life becomes proper for the society that we are in.

The other point is in the midst of all these, what do we do next? In the world of writing through the blog and writing through the cyber world. No freedom is **absolute they say**. We agree. While Section 3 of the Communication and Multimedia Act in Malaysia plus the MSC Bill of Guarantees have promised no internet censorship, does this mean, anyone can do anything through the cyber world? This question perhaps is best summed up this way. While there is freedom, there is limitation. While somebody will say no, some will say yes. Even in the family, this is prevailing. Therefore it all depends on the circumstance and on the nature of our act. If you use blogging to cheat people, what kind of repercussion or result would entail? If we write for the blogging world, banks are losing money or you enter their periphery of framework with which credit is going haywire. What is the answer? The answer truly, the Banking Acts of the world and the banking laws of each country will go against us.

If we promote pornography, the culture of people will be affected. The young will be drawn into a semblance of a new era with which the control is difficult to effect. And at the same time, can we not then summarize by saying, that all forms of crimes should be afforded by bloggers, by those who write for a living or by those who write simply for the sake of writing. So these points, ladies and gentlemen, become pertinent to me as Information, Communication, as well as Culture Minister. But to the young and to my friends from countries that have come and be gathered here at PWTC in Kuala Lumpur, some maybe relevant, some may not. But I do believe that most of these points are within the thinking process in the cranium of our processing life.

I would like to share with you that laws that exist, see to protect the vulnerable in our society. They exist to protect public interest and not designed to satisfy personal or private needs. Action can and have been taken against those who have acted contrary to laws pertaining to writing sedition, defamation, cheating and other criminal activities. While I need not stress this point, I do hope the congregation would apply the finite thinking process of the blogging world in this summit indeed.

*While action is being taken perhaps we should project the roles of NGOs, the roles of parents and teachers as well as those who are experts within the fold of the profession. Who knows one day blogging could be called a profession. But while we are still far from that, we must think ahead by saying that professionalism in writing and the guidance of the blogging world are too very necessary ambits for the day.*

*The communities of the world do not exist by accident. We have reached the heights of education either from Kyoto University or from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, or indeed from Harvard and Yale or from University of Malaya. Some of us have congregated here and I do believe this congregation is the mixture of the best mind in the young world of today in the world and in Malaysia.*

*I firmly believe and I think most fair minded leaders and persons believe, that bloggers have a huge role to play. As a new voice in this borderless world, they ought to use that voice for the good of our respective countries, for the good of our decency of life and to be the catalyst for integration between our people. Let us bring the world together by all means through blogging and through writing in the blogs.*

*There may be some areas of questionable conduct. I use a term "questionable conduct." Let it be, because the world itself is not perfect but within that questionable conduct, a person educated in mind and not in morals perhaps becomes a liability to society. But a person who uses the cyber world and the cyber intellect for a just and fair society must be given a big applause this morning.*

*With that I end the delivery by congratulating again my friends who have given the leadership to avail us the opportunity to be here. Beyond that, for you and the further end of this audience, should perhaps the other end of the day, in the evening, come forward and voice what you feel on the freedom of what we have and the good life that has been offered for us.*

*Best wishes and in Bahasa Melayu again, selamat berjaya bagi 'Kemuncak Blogging' yang dianjurkan bersama pada pagi ini.*

Assalamualaikum.