



SPEECH TEXT

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

PROGRAM

WOMEN IN ORANGE ECONOMY (PERANTIS)

LOCATION / DATE / TIME

**PUSTAKA NEGERI SARAWAK, KUCHING
26 JANUARI 2025 (SUNDAY)
3.30PM**

Updated 25 January 2025

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,
Salam Sejahtera dan Salam Malaysia MADANI.

(SALUTASI)

LAMPIRAN SALUTASI DISEDIAKAN

1. Terlebih dahulu, saya ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada semua yang hadir pada hari ini, khususnya kepada para tokoh wanita, peserta program, dan pihak penganjur yang telah menjayakan acara yang bermakna ini.

2. Hari ini, kita berkumpul untuk meraikan satu inisiatif penting yang bertujuan memperkasa wanita Malaysia melalui program **Women in Orange Economy (WIOE)** di bawah inisiatif **Perantisan Kepimpinan Wanita (PERANTIS)**, salah satu inisiatif **Jabatan Pembangunan Wanita (JPW)**.

Ladies and gentlemen,

3. I would like to take this opportunity to also celebrate the achievements of 25 inspiring women leaders, (Sharnaz is one of them), who have been selected under the **PERANTIS Leadership Program**. These women represent diverse regions across Malaysia, from Kedah and Kelantan to Sabah and Sarawak, highlighting our commitment to inclusivity and nationwide empowerment.

4. The PERANTIS program, introduced following the Prime Minister's allocation of RM5 million during International Women's Day 2024, is designed to address the deep-rooted gender gap in leadership. While women excel academically, with a Gender Gap Index score of 1.067 in education, this success has not yet translated into economic and political leadership, where scores remain disproportionately low.

5. This initiative aims to reverse that trend by providing mentorship, resources, and platforms for women leaders to thrive. Out of many applications, **25 programs were approved**, benefiting a total of **1,247 participants**, with a budget allocation of **RM1.2 million**. The rigorous selection process, led by 14 expert panelists, ensured that the most impactful and innovative proposals were chosen.

6. I am happy to announce that this year, we are not only continuing the PERANTIS program but will be expanding it significantly. We are increasing the target to include **100 women leaders nationwide**, each receiving up to **RM50,000** for their programs and we aim to reach **5,000 women participants** in total in 2025.
7. This is why i always believe that *good things come to those who believe, better things come to those who are patient and the best thing comes to those who don't give up!*

8. The journey may be challenging but we must persist and not give up on our goals. This is why I strongly believe in initiatives like PERANTIS, where women come together to uplift and empower one another. After all, if we don't support each other, who else will?

Key Highlights of the Programs

9. The selected programs reflect the wide-ranging potential of women's leadership in Malaysia. These initiatives address various areas, including:
 - a. **Leadership Development:** Programs like “Wan Mohalina Flagship Accelerator” from Kedah and “Excel & Empower” from Perak focus on enhancing women's managerial and leadership skills.

- b. **Economic Empowerment:** Initiatives such as the financial mentorship program in Pahang guide women entrepreneurs in account management, taxation, and business sustainability.

- c. **Youth Leadership & Education:** In Selangor, a program led by Prof. Datuk Dr. Roziah Binti Omar, focuses on developing young women leaders in higher education, preparing the next generation to excel in leadership.

- d. **Politics and Advocacy:** Efforts such as “Sidang Wanita Pulau Pinang 2024” and Tawau’s **HIWL Leadership Program** empower women in political and community decision-making roles.

- e. **And of course, today’s program involving Creative Industries:** The **Women in Orange Economy (WIOE)** initiative champions women in the creative sector, including arts, culture, and technology.

10. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heartfelt appreciation to **Ms. Sharnaz Saberi**, a true visionary who has demonstrated remarkable dedication through her leadership in the **Women in Orange Economy** initiative. As the Founder and CEO of Prodigy Music Centre & Orchestra, she continues to inspire countless of women to explore their potential in the creative economy.

Women in the Orange Economy

11. The **Orange Economy** represents a powerful avenue for women to innovate and create. Today's conference brings together leaders like Dr. Soo Wincci, Dr. Anna Sue, and Puan Zaharah Malim to share insights into fields like fashion, music, and entrepreneurship. The exhibition booths and artistic performances further underscore the immense potential of women in this dynamic sector.

12. Through programs like these, we are not only equipping women with the tools to succeed but also creating opportunities for collaboration and innovation.

Closing

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. The ultimate goal of these programs is to ensure that women are not only visible and empowered but also fully prepared

to take on leadership roles across all sectors. By investing in initiatives like PERANTIS, we are laying the foundation and creating an environment for a future where women lead with strength, resilience, and innovation.

14. The most valuable "products" we create are not material things but the leaders who inspire, drive change, and uplift their communities. For that, we need to be spiritually strong—because leadership requires not only intelligence

and capability but also inner resilience to navigate all these challenges.

15. Even as we rise up the ranks, we must stay vigilant and discerning, especially in our personal and professional circles. Women must equip themselves to lead confidently, no matter the industry or environment they step into.

16. Together, we can build a harmonious, progressive, and empowered community of women leaders, who will steer our nation into a brighter and more inclusive future.
17. Thank you, and may today's event serve as a reminder that lasting change begins with us. Let us move forward, stronger and united, to make that change happen.

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah
Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

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