

Text of speech delivered by YBhg Datin Azrene Abdullah

Closing Ceremony Specialist Breast Cancer Care Nurse Training Course Kristal Ballroom 1, PJ Hilton 28th April 2006.

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Peter Wentworth, Chief Executive Officer of BP In Malaysia

Yang Berusaha Mr Morten Lundal, Chief Executive Officer of DiGi Telecommunications Sdn Bhd

Yang Berusaha Mrs Dee Sidhu, Chairperson of the Organising Committee and Director of Amanita

Ladies and gentlemen

Assalamualaikum

1. Breast Cancer Statistics

1.1 As we are aware, breast cancer has become one of the major causes of death among women in Malaysia.

1.2 One in 17 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime.

1.3 Despite the alarming figures, women in Malaysia are inhibited and are often shy to broach the subject.

1.4 Many are unaware of methods of self-examination and even if they are, do not necessarily put it into practice.

1.5 Late diagnosis leads to health care professionals having to deal with increased numbers of breast cancer patients, often at an advanced stage.

2. Breast Cancer Specialist Care

2.1 When Dee Sidhu first spoke about this Project, it was easy to see why she was excited about it.

2.2 As nurses, you are likely to be the first face of medical healthcare that the patient will come into contact with.

2.3 Doctors impart the medical diagnosis but it is the nurses that provide the committed care over the prolonged period of a patient's recovery.

2.4 As a point of primary contact at this crucial stage, you could make all the difference in the patient's recovery path.

2.5 The best of clinical care would be that much more effective if the patient's mindset is receptive. Research has established how mental empowerment and a positive outlook can drastically improve the patient's survival rate.

2.6 When I meet special individuals like Dee Sidhu, I am reminded how true this

statement is.

2.7 But since not all of us are blessed with Dee's positive and sunny disposition we could all do with some help!

3.0 Closing

3.1 My distinguished guests, we can't change statistics BUT we can change the way in which respond to the breast cancer battle.

3.2 I am very happy to be part of this significant Project which I see as a milestone in specialist nursing care in the country.

3.3 It is also gratifying to me personally that BP and DiGi have each come forward to assist the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in their noble work. They have each shown themselves to be worthy corporate citizens with a sense of purpose. To Edith Cowan University, thank you for generously sharing your knowledge through this inspiring syllabus.

3.4 I would like to congratulate each one of the Graduate Nurses who are part of this pioneer batch.

3.5 Being part of a pioneer batch carries with it the glory -as well as the responsibility of being an instrument of change.

3.6 You are each already selfless individuals and this course has equipped you with the specialist skills to respond to the sensitivities of a breast cancer patient.

3.7 PRIDE, the breast cancer charity that I chair has always believed that the mind is a powerful tool.

3.8 We make it our mission to channel our efforts towards enhancing PRIDE for the mind, PRIDE for the body and PRIDE for the soul and spirit of the breast cancer patient through our personal development and empowerment projects. As the specialist nurse with the first contact with the patient, we see great synergy between your work and ours. You start the process and we try our best to sustain it.

3.9 We can't change the 1 in 17 statistic but let's try and do something about the breast cancer survival rate.

3.10 You, as the pioneer batch of Breast Cancer Nurses are a prime engine of this mission.

3.11 I hope you will embrace this new responsibility with courage, with pride and with compassion.

3.12 You each have it in you to make the difference.

Thank you.

***End