

**SPEECH BY DATO' MAIMUNAH MOHD SHARIF, THE
MAYOR OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF SEBERANG PERAI,
AT THE YALA CITY MUNICIPALITY YALA PROVINCE,
THAILAND YOUTH ORCHESTRA ON 23 NOVEMBER 2015
(MONDAY) AT SP ARENA, SEBERANG PERAI AT 8.30
PM.**

Mr. Pongsak Ying Chong Charoen,
The Mayor of Yala City Municipality,

Ms Ekajit Kraivichien,
The Consul-General of Thailand to Penang

The Penang Philharmonic Orchestra,

Datin Seri Irene Yeap

Distinguished guests,

Lovers of music,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening, it is a great pleasure to attend and welcome Mr. Pongsak Ying Chong Charoen, The Mayor of Yala City Municipality, Ms Ekajit Kraivichien, The Consul-General of Thailand to Penang, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen to SP Arena this evening to recognise the Yala City Municipality leading a youth orchestra that was formed among the Yala citizens, and to acknowledge the extraordinary musical talent of the young musicians who are part of the Yala City Municipality.

The Yala City Municipality Youth Orchestra is an ensemble that builds friendship through music. Let me also extend a very warm welcome to the musicians from Yala Province Thailand. These young musicians, whatever their age, are vivid examples of how music transcends language, cultural barriers and fosters friendship.

I understand that for several years the Yala Municipal Youth Orchestra has been performing with the Penang Philharmonic Orchestra and has a distinguished history of dedication to music. It is an honour and delight for Seberang Perai audiences to hear the performance of Yala youths under the Yala-Penang Celebration of Friendship through Music Programme. Today's performance promises to be a particularly memorable one for the residents of Seberang Perai as it is the first time the Yala Orchestra together with the Penang Philharmonic Orchestra is performing in Seberang Perai, Penang. We are very proud to be the home of the Yala Youth performance this evening.

The Yala youths who are accepted into the Orchestra's programmes have the opportunity to be nurtured and guided by music professionals and to obtain the skills necessary to become next generation of Asia's

professional musicians. I congratulate all the Yala musicians on your dedication to celebrate friendship through music.

Riding on the years of dedication, the Yala City Municipality has nurtured young artists, enriched the cultural life of Thailand and Penang and unleashed young musicians' talent. Your municipality's commitment and devotion are also essential for helping young musicians reach their full potential and make their dreams come true. This not only brings opportunities for cultural and social exchanges, but also fosters the career development of young musicians.

I am sure that many of your talented musicians will soon have the chance to perform musical performances at venues throughout Asia and the world.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude here to all those who supported and give their cooperation for the success of this exceptional programme. Your staunch support and cooperation have not only helped the Orchestra flourish, but also raised the profile of Asia's musical talent.

I look forward to the splendid and memorable performance. Finally, I wish the Yala City Municipality Youth Orchestra from Yala

Province Thailand a great success and hope that all of you will have a fulfilling and enjoyable stay in Seberang Perai.

Thank you very much.