

CBN 125th Anniversary dinner speech

Good Evening Ladies and a handful of gentlemen

Welcome to this celebration of Convent Bukit Nanas' 125 years of existence.

Your presence and support ensures that the legacy of social justice, started by the first nuns who arrived here in Malaysia, continues today and well into the future. They built this school to welcome girls from all walks of life with a particular focus on the underprivileged. They set high standards for the students but were compassionate in their care for them. That purpose is alive and well today as CBN continues to house a student population represented from across the socioeconomic bands and a teaching staff that is committed to develop excellence in the students.

While this is happening, the school also has to ensure that it is a safe and wonderful place to study in. The buildings are ageing and the allocation of maintenance funds from the government are not always in full. The wear and tear is obvious and in some cases, hazardous. That's why your continuing support is so critical.

You've done a lot of good tonight ladies and gentlemen, delivering impact that will last lifetimes. Restoring the school to a good condition is so important, so that the students can have a safe and welcoming place to study, something they will look back on with pride and gratitude. There is such a special feeling of having been part of a historic institution and I know that is the reason many of us are here tonight – to share again in that special feeling.

Let the future generations of students learn from us alumni the values of gratitude and giving back to society that they may in turn be the future alumni who will gladly pick up the baton from us in caring for the school. So, give yourselves a hand, alumni, for modelling what it means to be simple in virtue and steadfast in duty.

Ladies, this dinner happened with much, much work by the *EXCO* of the alumni association and the volunteers. Here are the amazing *EXCO* members – ***Shaliza, Shareena, Eena, Karen, Maryanne, Alice, Grace, Tutie.***



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We would also like to thank the advisor to the event, **Joan Foo Mahoney** for her tireless contributions.

Many volunteers helped out as well and they are acknowledged in the program that is given to everyone in the goodie bag.

So, as well-brought up ladies of Convent Bukit Nanas, shall we say thank you to them? At the count of 3, let's say 'THANK YOU, LADIES'. 1,2,3.

I say with tongue in cheek that it was an effort of blood, sweat and tears by these wonderful ladies but their devotion to duty was truly a privilege to witness.

We would also like to thank the many generous sponsors for their gifts and donations. Without your sponsorship, we would not be able to achieve the dreams we have for the school and the students. We even had contributions flowing in up until yesterday and expect there will be more in the days to come. So, let's give our donors and sponsors a warm round of applause for their generous support.

We'd also like to thank the sweet girls of the CBN school band who made the commitment to play for us tonight. They bravely took up the challenge despite not having the seniors in the band as the seniors were preparing for their exams. Would you agree that they did fantastic tonight? Let's wish them well for the future! Applause.

We have some fantastic entertainment lined up for you and the wonderful thing is these amazing artistes volunteered their services tonight. We are getting free entertainment by professional artistes! It's so rare and so much appreciated. So please join me in applauding their generous voluntary services for tonight.

Finally but most importantly, on behalf of the Exco, we would like to thank Sr Mary Theresa Chua, the head of the Infant Jesus Sisters for her encouragement. The IJS has the formidable task of overseeing CBN and 56 other convent schools around Malaysia and they certainly need the help of the alumni. Sr Theresa is unable to be here with us tonight as she is recovering from a surgery. Representing her tonight is Sr Agnes who will deliver Sr Theresa's message on her behalf.

Finally, ladies and gentlemen, once again thank you for your support of your beloved school, Convent Bukit Nanas. Enjoy the evening.

