

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

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*Y.A.M. Tunku Tan Sri
Imran Ibni Almarhum
Tuanku Ja'afar*

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I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to helm one of the country's leading corporate foundations. YSD has made great strides in making a difference in the lives of ordinary Malaysians since its establishment in 1982, and it is a great responsibility to continue the Foundation's good work, while increasing its impact and achieving more milestones. I am glad to be working alongside passionate and enthusiastic peers, and I am grateful for their invaluable insights into assisting and enriching the lives of others, with the support of the diligent YSD operations team.



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It has been an inspiring and affirming few months since my appointment on 12 February 2019. Our efforts across YSD's five pillars of Education, Environment, Community & Health, Sports and Arts & Culture continue to assist those in need, in line with the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

I am pleased to note that our continuous efforts to provide support to people living with HIV/AIDS were recognised when we were bestowed with the prestigious Patron Award for Excellence in Corporate Social Responsibility at the Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah Award Gala Dinner 2018. This achievement would not have been possible without the invaluable support of our partners, the Malaysian AIDS Council (MAC) and the Malaysian AIDS Foundation (MAF). Since 2013, YSD had committed RM6.4 million for various initiatives led by the MAC and MAF, such as critical advocacy work, community empowerment initiatives for people living with HIV, and the MAF Positive Audacious Living (PAL) Scheme second line antiretroviral



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YSDAF 2018
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of **RM6 million**



Supporting the
conservation of the
endangered Malayan tiger
200 tigers
in the wild

(ARV) treatment for underprivileged HIV patients. While it is humbling that our efforts are being recognised, there remains so much more work to be done to create awareness and remove the stigma against people living with the disease, for them to seek the life-saving treatment they require to live.

We are also proud that the YSD Arts Festival 2018 (YSDAF 2018) drew to a successful conclusion, attracting the highest number of participants since its inception in 2014 of more than 17,000 over the carnival weekend, with 350 free-for-all fun activities. The festival also carried out many art activities that provided a loudspeaker for disadvantaged voices to tell their stories and showcase Malaysian talent. We have now begun planning for YSDAF 2020, and it is our hope to continue providing a soundboard for the importance of unity in diversity, so stay tuned for more updates!

Our purpose also underpins the Education pillar's Program Pra-Pendidikan Tinggi, formerly known as Tabung Mengubah Destini Anak Bangsa, in collaboration with Universiti Teknologi MARA. The programme provides a second chance to underprivileged students to further their tertiary education after having failed to make the cut to enrol into higher learning institutions. Since 2011, a total of 4,828 students were supported by YSD with a commitment of RM6 million to complete their pre-diploma courses, with 80% of them pursuing their diplomas after completion. We see these opportunities provided as necessary to not only uplift individuals, but also their families, from the cycle of poverty through education and skill enhancement.

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This is exemplified by Fatin Nur Zulkipli, who completed the programme in 2012. Brought up by a single parent, Fatin is the only one in her family of six siblings who has completed a tertiary education. Through the Program Pra-Pendidikan Tinggi, she pursued a diploma and an undergraduate education at UiTM, making the Dean's list for three consecutive semesters and graduating with a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 3.48 in 2017. She managed to complete her master's degree within a year with flying colours, even though she was working as a Health Information Assistant at Gleneagles Penang at the time. She is now pursuing her PhD studies in the field of mobile record management at UiTM.

On the Environment front, we are ramping up critical anti-poaching efforts by supporting the Protect Unit in collaboration with the Sabah Forestry Department. The Protect Team aims to capacity-build and increase patrolling activities in protected areas in Sabah to deter poaching activities. This is especially crucial to stave off the dwindling of endangered species, which is critical at this juncture. We cannot afford to lose any other species to apathy, neglect and lack of political will. At YSD, we have been supporting efforts to conserve endangered species for a decade. We continue to focus our efforts on species that need our help the most to survive for future generations, and we are currently supporting the conservation of the endangered Malayan tiger in collaboration with the Perak State Park Corporation, as we are only left with fewer than 200 tigers in the wild. We call on others to join us and help us save our precious wildlife at this crucial juncture.

We are also raising the ante on several projects, especially those under the Sports pillar. We are resolute in our purpose of recognising latent talent in individuals, regardless of gender or age, providing them with a platform to be the best version of themselves. We hope to do this across various stages in sports development which will lead to holistic development of athletes, and subsequently lay the groundwork for the development of world-class athletes. Midnight Football is one such project. With RM320,000 committed towards the programme, YSD is in

collaboration with the Global Peace Foundation until November 2019. Positioning sports as a vehicle for healing, the programme targets at-risk youths from urban poor and rural schools. It uses football to develop talent, confidence and other soft skills among youths who are at high risk of engaging in delinquency and who express less interest in academic pursuits.

We also recognise that sports development requires our firm support, particularly female sporting talents, who are more often than not, left on the sidelines of sports talent development. And even with this reality in the country, our beloved Malaysia has produced the likes of Nicol David, Pandalela Rinong, Farah Ann Abdul Hadi, Cheong Jun Hoong, Goh Liu Ying and Shalin Zulkifli. Therefore, we hope to do more in this important segment of sports development in the country.

All of YSD's efforts would not have been possible without the commitment towards our causes from our donors: Sime Darby Plantation Berhad, Sime Darby Property Berhad and Sime Darby Berhad. They have committed funds, resources, time, dedication and passion towards YSD and what we believe in, so that we are able to make a difference in the lives of others by way of Corporate Social Responsibility. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the leadership of all three companies for their wisdom and generosity towards YSD and, by extension, the betterment of our society, the nation and the world. We hope to continue doing our best to make a sustainable impact, with their firm commitment and trust in YSD.

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