

Editor's Exit

Norhaiza Ahmad

Dear FM,

I am writing to say my piece.
A sort of homage to you really.
When you first approached me I got cold feet.
You call me *penyelaras*
But *Tok Itam* call me *chiep*.
I like the latter -it is more whimsical you see.

I have never been chosen
To be in such position
I know it is no big deal to you
I have a feeling that to you, it could be anybody
After all there were those great other *chieps* before me

At first, I spent a long time trying to get my head around it
I said why me
Then I relented
I made very insignificant changes
They are all cosmetic you see
I thought hard about you
I just know that you need changing
I am not sure what your readers thought.
When I change your schedule or
Put colourful pictures *trying* to make you more engageable

But I had help. Loads of it.
There was Arifah, whom your old *boss* made her my deputy
Who worked hard on you,
Until she had to desert me
.... For another responsibility
Fauzi who helped on the technicalities
Zarina for her relentless effort in making you the way I want you to be seen
These people have been very patient with me.
Ask them how many drafts over drafts of you I ask them to discard
I could be sued for killing trees but you are my exception you see
I hope I did not make Zarina & Fauzi feel annoyed when,
I gave your newpiece to be put on the template a few hours before the day end,
Or when I say "Make that picture smaller or perhaps bigger is better" or "Please could you reduce that white space on paper".

At times, you can be a pain
To fill your *face* requires me be *Rita Skeeter*
She is that witch journalist in *Harry Porter*
Who kept her ears peeled for any *berita*
We try to follow all the goings on in the department for you
Information from others were helpful too
And sometimes the *boss* would like to convey something out of the blue

Filling up your back ehem ...*side* have not been easy
It is nothing new.
All those other *chiep* before me had the same problem too.
I tried to strategize to get people to write for you
Sometimes it worked, other times it failed

Tok Itam you top my gratitude list
They should give him an award
For never failing to write and entertain
I know that some readers read *only* Tok Itam's section

Whereas my newsfeed are just white-space fillers for somebody's future reference to ascertain
Thank you as well to all contributors who wrote in.
Particularly those who made extra effort
To help this *chiep* who is still fledglin'
They made my day when they emailed those articles in.

On a final note,
In the process, I hope I have not tread on anyone's 'shoes'
Although I am sure I have missed out on some news
Sometimes in the news,
I missed out on one name or more than two
From the bottom of my heart, apologies I beg of you

I relished the times we had
All those fortnightly dates with you,
Personally gave me an expressive avenue
I hope I have made marks on your readers
These 45 editions – has been a great relationship.
Regretfully I have a new marching orders after this
So, I need to put my pen down now for the next *chiep* ☐

TOK ITAM

Assalamualaikum dan salam sejahtera.

Ketika menunggu pesanan sampai di meja kami di sebuah restoran pada suatu malam, anak kelima Tok Itam menyenaraikan nama semua anak-anak Tok Itam dan sebelas nombor empat digit. Katanya nombor-nombor ini adalah kod anak-anak Tok Itam. Padankan kod dengan nama di mana nama disenaraikan menurut tertib dari yang sulong hingga yang bongsu. Inilah senarainya:

Nama	Kod
Abdul Hadi	1135
Norulhuda	1333
Aisyah	1423
Norfarhani	4501
Maryam Jameelah	2413
Salahuddin	1036
Ahmad Bazil	4402
Sulaiman	4600
Sakinah	0037
Aniyah	3403
Hamizah	1234

Terkial-kial juga Tok Itam dan isteri cuba menyelesaikannya. Akhirnya berjaya juga tetapi Tok Itam juga yang kena belanja makan malam itu. Ingatkan dapat hadiah makan malam bila berjaya. Saudara saudari juga boleh mencuba menyelesaikan masalah di atas dan seperti mana nasib Tok Itam, juga bagi yang berjaya tiada ganjarannya. Selamat mencuba. ☐