



SPEECH TEXT

YB SENATOR DATO' SRI TENGKU ZAFRUL TENGKU ABDUL AZIZ AT THE CHEQUE PRESENTATION CEREMONY FROM IWH-CREC SDN BHD TO TRX CITY SDN BHD

Salutations

- 1. Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Dr Wee Ka Siong,**
Minister of Transport
- 2. Yang Berhormat Datuk Ir Hasni Mohammad,**
Menteri Besar Johor
- 3. His Excellency Mr Bai Tian,**
Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Malaysia
- 4. Yang Berbahagia Dato' Asri Hamidon,**
Chairman, Bandar Malaysia Sdn Bhd and Secretary General of the Treasury
- 5. Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Lim Kang Hoo,**
Executive Vice Chairman Iskandar Waterfront Holdings Sdn Bhd
- 6. Mr Chen ZhiGong,**
CREC Malaysia Chairman

Distinguished Guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

INTRODUCTION

1. Good evening, and thank you for inviting me to say a few words and witness this auspicious occasion. This event effectively signifies the continued support and commitment for the long-awaited Bandar Malaysia project.

2. This is no ordinary development. We are building what is being touted as the single, largest integrated and intelligent new city in the ASEAN region. With a gross development value of 140 billion ringgit, Bandar Malaysia will also be the biggest development of its kind, in our country.

BANDAR MALAYSIA

Ladies & Gentlemen,

3. Mammoth projects such as Bandar Malaysia has the potential to unlock tremendous benefits to almost all sectors of the economy.
4. Not only will this boost business activities, but it will also help transform the Kuala Lumpur skyline and evolve the business landscape as the new hub for high-impact global businesses, and talent attraction, across both local and international fronts.
5. Indeed, Bandar Malaysia is one of the many projects that take Malaysia forward in a big way.
6. With the right execution, the economic multiplier effect to the rest of the country, will be immense. This is the underlying objective, in line with the Government's vision to ensure prosperity for all Malaysians.

Ladies & Gentlemen,

7. Today's ceremony, and the commitment to develop Bandar Malaysia is an endorsement of investor confidence, in Malaysia's ability, to weather the current headwinds, and provide a conducive environment for businesses and investments to thrive.
8. In the first quarter of this year, Malaysia's net FDI inflow totaled 6.4 billion ringgit, up from 5.4 billion ringgit in the fourth quarter of 2019.
9. As of June 2020, there are a total of 726 projects with proposed investments of 36.7 billion ringgit in the pipeline. Nonetheless, the year 2020 will be a challenging one for all economies, including Malaysia. The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) forecast that the global FDI flows would decline by up to 40 per cent in 2020, from the 2019 value of USD1.54 trillion.
10. We are in the cusp of change, with an ongoing health crisis, and global economic uncertainties, that provided a challenge for Malaysia as an open trading nation.

11. But I am confident to say, we can overcome these challenges, and we will continue to do well in protecting lives and livelihood.
12. It is proven that Malaysia has responded effectively to the pandemic, through the concerted efforts by the Government, the business community, and Malaysians at large.

AN IMPROVING ECONOMY

13. There are green shoots of recovery across multiple economic fronts, thanks to prudent practice in containing COVID-19, and the implementation of the 295 billion ringgit PRIHATIN and PENJANA economic revitalisation plans.
14. July production numbers have continued to show growth since April, while unemployment rate has continued its decline to 4.7 percent, from its peak of 5.3 percent in May. Further, manufacturing sales recorded a growth of 1.9% year-on-year.
15. Bank Negara Malaysia has also decided to maintain its interest rate unchanged at 1.75 percent, which signals confidence to the sustainability of the economic recovery path.
16. In the Malaysian stock market, the increased retail participation post-COVID, and a swing back of foreign inflows, is proof of market confidence towards the ongoing recovery.
17. In the bonds market, foreigners remain net buyers of Malaysian bonds for four straight months, from May to August 2020, with total inflows of 23.1 billion ringgit, signaling long term confidence in Malaysia's stability and growth trajectory.
18. The ringgit has also emerged as one of the best performers among ASEAN currencies in recent months, due to various economic stimulus packages rolled out by the Government as well as our relative success in handling COVID-19.
19. I believe Malaysia's position as a preferred investment destination remains strong, despite global economic uncertainties.

MALAYSIA AS A BUSINESS AND INVESTMENT DESTINATION

20. This concerted effort has been crucial in helping Malaysia achieve a stronger footing, according to Bank Negara Malaysia as well as international agencies such as the IMF and World Bank, GDP growth is expected to be between 5.5% to 8% in 2021.

21. We invite more investors to join us and take advantage of this strong recovery path, an example being, the incentives for businesses to invest as well as relocate their operations into the country under the PENJANA economic revitalisation plan.
22. Above and beyond this, Malaysia is an attractive destination for investments and businesses growth. In this regard:
- a. Sixteen Malaysian companies have made it to Forbes Asia 2020 “Best Under A Billion” list, which recognises 200 top-performing small and mid-sized listed companies in the Asia Pacific.
 - b. Kuala Lumpur is in 11th spot in the top 100 emerging ecosystems in the world, as identified in the Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2020 by Startup Genome; and
 - c. The country is now ranked 27th out of 63 countries in the World Competitiveness Ranking 2020 report by the Institute for Management Development (IMD), which analysed global economies and ability to generate prosperity.
23. These global rankings are testimonial and validates Malaysia’s sound policies and measures.
24. Moving forward, the Government has also started preparation for the upcoming Budget 2021 and the 12th Malaysia Plan, and will look towards more investor friendly policies.
25. Being a global trading nation, we are open for business, and I welcome investors and business to Malaysia.

CONCLUSION

Ladies & Gentlemen,

26. Before I end, allow me to thank the JV partners, IWH and CREC for their continuous commitment for this project. On behalf of the Government, I wish to convey my best wishes for success in this one-of-a-kind development.
27. I would also like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to His Excellency Ambassador Bai Tian for his unwavering support, both to this project as well as to Malaysia as a whole. For those who may not know, Ambassador Bai Tian was instrumental in providing assistance during the early periods of Malaysia’s efforts to fight COVID-19, and continues to be a strong supporter of these efforts.

28. Ladies and gentlemen, let me conclude by once again thanking the IWH-CREC consortium for inviting me to witness this ceremony.

Thank you, Assalamualaikum WBT, and have a good evening.