

**SPEECH FOR MR. ARHAM ABDUL RAHMAN  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER I  
SARAWAK DOMESTIC INVESTMENT SEMINAR  
26 JUNE 2019, PULLMAN KUCHING HOTEL, SARAWAK**

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**Acknowledgement (TBC)**

YB. Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan  
Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak

Members of the Media

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome all of you to the Sarawak Domestic Investment Seminar. It is encouraging to see many participants with a wide representation of the industry's stakeholders today. Early this year, MIDA organised the MIDA Invest Series: Unfolding Sarawak States' Business Potential successfully in MIDA HQ, Kuala Lumpur and received an overwhelming response from the business community. We are indeed delighted that the momentum continues today with the attendance of more than 200 participants in this hall.
2. We are honored to have YB. Datuk Amar Haji Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, Deputy Chief Minister of Sarawak, to officiate this seminar. My special thanks to all our panel speakers from MATRADE, MIDF, EXIM Bank, MPC, Standards Malaysia, SIRIM and my colleagues from MIDA, who are here to share their insights on various topics of interest with us later today.
3. Today's seminar is part of MIDA's continuous efforts to update the industry players especially in East Malaysia on the latest policies and facilities that are available. We have lined up presentations as well as panel sessions throughout the day, featuring various agencies at both

the federal and state levels. Having said that, we would like to urge all participants to take advantage of today's programme to the fullest by engaging these agencies in the venture to further develop and grow your business.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The Government is providing more opportunities for companies to move towards Industry 4.0 through various initiatives. This includes incentive packages such as the Pioneer Status (PS), Investment Tax Allowance (ITA) and the Domestic Investment Strategic Fund (DISF). There are also tax incentives for the production of robotics; the Automation Capital Allowance (ACA) to encourage automation in the manufacturing industry; and the Soft Loan Scheme for Automation and Modernisation (SLAM) to enhance manufacturing processes, upgrade production capability and capacity, and diversify into higher-value-added activities.
5. With these facilities in place, companies' particularly domestic players need to take full advantage of the facilities available. We urge not only to adopt automation and other smart technologies, but also to invest in their talent by retraining the workforce and undertake collaborations with the many training institutions that are already available in the country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. MIDA has been facilitating investments from all over the world into Malaysia. In addition to foreign investments, many local companies have also continued to expand their operations in the country. As of 2018, a total of 770 projects worth RM82.7 billion have been implemented in Sarawak. These projects have created more than 104,000 employment opportunities in the state, mainly in the natural gas, chemical and chemical products, basic metal products, electronics and electrical products, wood and wood products sectors. Notable MNCs and Large Local Corporations (LLCs) companies

operating in Sarawak include Petronas, OCIM, Longi, X-Fab and Press Metal, holds much promise for business collaborations and opportunities.

7. In order to encourage more investments, MIDA continues to undertake various activities and programmes in paving the way for further growth particularly among the domestic players. In 2018, MIDA has set up a dedicated team called the Investment Coordination Platform (ICP) to facilitate companies to grow their businesses and investment portfolio. This unit works closely with equity and corporate advisory firms as well as local regulators and technology providers in assisting companies to conduct business-to-business matching, capital raising exercise through debt & equity, M&A, divestment and initial public listing or IPO.
8. MIDA has also established the i-Incentives Portal under its Incentives Coordination and Collaboration Office (ICCO). The platform is a one-stop centre with information about all incentives currently available in the country offered by the Federal Government of Malaysia.
9. In addition, MIDA's i-Services Portal which was launched by our MITI Minister, YB Datuk Darell Leiking at last year's National Investment Seminar is a single market place to link investors and companies interested to source for domestic services from local service providers. This gateway will also help companies to expand their markets and further boost business activities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Sarawak is certainly one of Malaysia's destinations for high value added investment. There are many exciting developments happening in Sarawak that bodes well for business and job opportunities. To share few, Sarawak to become a leading cattle meat supplier in the ASEAN region, the Middle East and Australia; Sarawak Energy Bhd (SEB) is investing RM15 million in this pilot hydrogen production

plant and refueling station project; and RM600,000 worth of food processing centre establishment in Kota Samarahan.

11. With so much development happening in the state, there is certainly more room for expansion and diversification activities, particularly in new growth areas. We encourage more companies to take advantage of the established ecosystem and facilities that Sarawak has to offer.
12. Moving forward, MIDA will continue to undertake engagements such as today to ensure that Malaysia achieves its goals and aspirations, creating wealth that translates to tangible benefits felt by all Malaysians. Together with MITI and its agencies, we will continue to work closely with the state government and authorities to create a more conducive business environment for businesses to grow.
13. Before I end, I would like to once again thank everybody here for taking the time to participate in this seminar. On that note, I wish all of you a very productive day ahead.

Thank you.