

**OPENING REMARKS FOR MR. ZABIDI MAHBAR  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC PLANNING (MANUFACTURING)**

**MIDA INVEST SERIES: UNFOLDING STATES BUSINESS POTENTIAL  
A BRIEFING BY INVEST KEDAH**

**25 January 2018 (Thursday), Perdana Hall, Level 10, MIDA**

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Salutation

Mr. Zafir Annuar bin Ghazali  
Senior General Manager, Invest Kedah

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good Morning. First of all, I would like to welcome everyone to the second briefing in 'MIDA Invest Series: Unfolding States Potential' organised by MIDA in collaboration with the state agencies of Malaysia.
2. In the last two weeks, we kicked-off 2018 learning some exciting business potentials available in Perlis. Today, we continue the momentum by focusing on the state of Kedah, to find out what it has to offer to investors.
3. We are pleased to have our distinguished guest, Mr. Zafir Annuar bin Ghazali, Senior General Manager of Invest Kedah to share with us the latest development and investment opportunities in the state. I would also like to thank all participants who are from the various industries' associations and chambers for joining us this morning. We are very encouraged by your interest and support for this event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. The development trend in Malaysia appears to be convergence to a few major centres concentrating on the existing core region in Kuala Lumpur as well as the adjacent global centre of Singapore. One of the driving factors has been the uneven pattern of private investments at the state level. While some states have continuously topped the list of recipients for investments, other states have yet to achieve their full potential.
5. Recognising this, MIDA, being the principal investment promotion agency for the country decided to be more targeted in our investment promotion efforts. The holding of this briefing series is one of MIDA's outreach programmes to help address this issue by highlighting each state's unique comparative and competitive advantages.
6. We seek to attract investments that will create fair and impartial jobs in all the 13 states and 3 federal territories in the country. Ultimately, our goal is to develop an inclusive and sustainable economic growth in Malaysia. We do this by leveraging on the close cooperation and coordination MIDA has with the state agencies.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Kedah is one of the oldest states in Malaysia and has captivating history behind it. In fact, there is more to this 'Rice Bowl State' than just paddy fields. In term of investments, there are 1,142 manufacturing projects implemented in Kedah with total investments of RM51.28 billion as at December 2016. These projects have created over 150,000 job opportunities for the state.
8. Despite the challenging global economic environment, Kedah has persevered by attracting additional approved investments worth RM1.29 billion in the manufacturing sectors from January to September last year, creating another 1,543 job opportunities for the state. These 26 projects were mainly in non-metallic mineral products,

transport equipment, E&E, machinery and equipment, rubber products, and fabricated metal products.

9. Among notable companies operating in Kedah include Intel Malaysia (Semiconductors), First Solar Malaysia (thin film solar modules/components), Silterra Malaysia (semiconductor fabricated wafers), Infineon Technologies Kulim (wafer fabrication), Fuji Electrics Malaysia (hard disk media and semiconductor devices), and Petronas Chemical Fertiliser Kedah (liquid ammonia and urea).
10. In August 2017, our Prime Minister, YAB Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak has launched a Blueprint 2016-2025 (Blueprint 2.0) for the Northern Corridor Economic Development. This blueprint is in line with National Plans such as RMK-11, Economic Transformation Programme, Government Transformation Programme and New Economic Model.
11. The blueprint aims to outline the future directions and strategies to expand growth, reduce regional imbalances and introduces bold measures for the long-term benefit of all by sustaining its growth momentum. It covers more than 80 strategic projects that will spearhead the economic development across four states in the north of Peninsular Malaysia.
12. In the blue print, two NCER growth node projects have been identified in Kedah, namely Kedah Rubber City (KRC) and Kedah Science and technology Park (KSTP). KRC leverages on its strategic location and focuses on high-value rubber and rubber based industries, whereas KSTP envisions to be a world-class centre for the promotion and commercialisation of applied scientific research and technology.
13. We are optimistic that these projects will be an impetus to attract more quality investments into Kedah, particularly in the targeted sectors. We are optimist that these projects will further stimulate Kedah's economic growth and create high value jobs for its people.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. With so much room available for expansion and diversification particularly in new growth areas, we look forward to more companies taking advantage of the established ecosystem and facilities that Kedah has to offer.
15. The government, through MIDA has established a Domestic Investment Strategic Fund (DISF) to accelerate the shift of Malaysian-owned companies in targeted industries to high value-added, high technology, knowledge-intensive and innovation-based industries. Under this scheme, MIDA has approved 270 projects with investments of RM13 billion as at December 2017. For Kedah, a total of RM83.9 billion was granted for 14 manufacturing projects worth RM702.3 million.
16. MIDA has an office in Alor Setar that is ever ready to serve the needs of investors on the ground. We also have established an SME Investment Desk at all our state offices. Investors including SMEs are encouraged to visit our state office to find out more about our services or if you require facilitation at any stage of your project implementation.
17. We trust that this briefing session will benefit the business community in equipping themselves with the investment prospects and latest developments happening in each particular state in Malaysia.
18. MIDA will work closely with the Kedah State Government and other government agencies to ensure a conducive business environment is fostered for your investments to prosper.
19. Engagements such as these should not be a one way street. Our doors are always open and our staffs are ever willing to respond to your enquiries.
20. In closing, I wish all of you a productive session ahead.

Thank you.