

**WELCOME REMARKS BY  
TAN SRI AMIRSHAM A. AZIZ  
CHAIRMAN OF MIDA  
ANNUAL MEDIA CONFERENCE 2018  
6 MARCH 2018, PERDANA HALL, MIDA**

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**Acknowledgement**

YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed  
Minister of International Trade and Industry

YB Dato' Seri Ong Ka Chuan  
Second Minister of International Trade and Industry

YB Datuk Chua Tee Yong; and  
YB Datuk Haji Ahmad Haji Maslan  
Deputy Ministers of MITI

YBhg. Dato' Azman Mahmud  
Chief Executive Officer of MIDA

Your Excellencies Ambassadors and  
High Commissioners,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, salam sejahtera and good afternoon.

1. Welcome to the MIDA's Annual Media Conference 2018. Thank you for joining us today.
2. We are honoured to have with us here, YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, who will shortly be announcing Malaysia's full-year 2017 investment performance.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Last year, the global economy proved fairly resilient in the face of challenges. Despite being affected by inward looking policies by major economies, the year turned out to be better than expected with these economies growing in sync for the first time since the global financial crisis in 2010. According to a new finding by Grant Thornton's quarterly business survey, global business confidence improved at its highest ever level of 58% in Q4 2017.
4. This was also the case for Malaysia as our economy exceeded all expectations and recorded a strong growth of 5.9% as at the end of 2017.<sup>1</sup> This performance is above the GDP registered in the preceding years of 4.2% and 5.0% in 2016 and 2015 respectively.
5. While this uptick may have been a direct result of a synchronised global growth, it also indicates that our economic fundamentals are strong. It should therefore come as no surprise that Malaysia was ranked as the most attractive emerging market in Asia and 5th most attractive in the world for 2018, according to Bloomberg's Emerging Market Scorecard that was recently released.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. In 2017, MIDA continued to intensify our efforts in attracting more quality Foreign Direct Investments (FDIs) into the country. We organised Trade and Investment Missions to various locations abroad, including India, Japan, Germany, Sweden and Korea. During these engagements, we seek to ensure increased levels of investments in the manufacturing and services sectors. The focus is to raise the profile of Malaysia as a destination for investments that spurs productivity, innovation and complement our business ecosystem.
7. At the same time, we have also been active in undertaking promotional activities in the country through various forums. In November last year for example, we teamed up with Nikkei for the inaugural Malaysia Nikkei Business Forum 2017. The event that was held in Kuala Lumpur attracted more than 500 Japanese participants. From the feedback we received from Nikkei's survey, we are pleased to inform that nearly half of the participants, have the

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<sup>1</sup> NST article titled Malaysia post 5.9pct GDP growth in 2017 dated 14 February 2018

interest to invest in Malaysia in the near term. The MIDA team is following-up with these interested parties towards securing their investments in Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Over the years, the presence of multinational corporations (MNCs) in Malaysia has played a significant role in developing our local companies, through direct and indirect outsourcings. The transfer of technology and expertise has helped nurture local companies to become regional champions, whereby some have already been publicly listed on BURSA Malaysia. Meanwhile, there are many more private companies in the country which meet the pre-requisite for a listing exercise. Recognising that they have yet to tap into the capital market through listing, MIDA together with BURSA Malaysia organised the ‘Grow Your Business, List on BURSA’ forum in May last year.
9. This shows that we are not just looking at FDI but we are also placing much emphasis on Direct Domestic Investment (DDI). A good spectrum of domestic investments will spur the ecosystem and complement FDI. We continue to strengthen engagements with local companies through numerous meetings, dialogues, briefings and seminars. We leveraged on these platforms to constantly update local companies on the latest investment policies and business developments that were happening in the country. Last year also witnessed the formation of a dedicated SME Investment Desk at MIDA HQ and its twelve state offices. This underscores MIDA’s commitment to facilitate domestic investments.
10. In promoting stronger linkages between MNCs and local companies, MIDA organised 5 Supply Chain Conferences that were held throughout Malaysia. The focus was on each region’s economic drivers. We are pleased that the business linkages formed through this platform will contribute in enabling local companies to gain wider market access and recognition.
11. As many major MNCs and large companies are moving fast into implementing Industry 4.0., it is crucial for our local companies and SMEs to move into this space to remain competitive in the long term. In addressing the cost of this transition, the Government has announced several initiatives in Budget 2018. Companies are encouraged to leverage on these facilities and invest in their long-term sustainability. In the words of Warren Buffet [Baf-fet] “Price is what you pay. Value is what you get”.

12. Furthermore, having a strong manufacturing base, Malaysia is well-positioned to capitalise on the emerging opportunities by the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We need to focus on upskilling the current talent pool to be productivity-driven and future-ready. Companies also need to reorganise themselves in tandem with the country's transition towards becoming a nation that can churn out high-technology and innovative products and services as well as high quality jobs. Collaborations between the industry and academia as well as R&D institutions are crucial in the country's shift from being merely producing technology to developing product technology.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. In our drive towards becoming a high income nation, MIDA will continue to work closely with our stakeholders including the ministries and agencies to sustain high levels of private investments. I would like to also thank our corporate partners for their contribution in supporting us to achieve Malaysia's economic goals. Not forgetting the entire MIDA team as well who was instrumental in achieving the 2017 results. The work does not stop here as we are doubling our efforts to maintaining a competitive business environment in the country.
14. MIDA remains committed to serve our clientele, and I trust that we can count on you for your continued support towards forging forward Malaysia through its next phase of development.
15. On that note, it is with great honour that I now invite YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed to deliver his presentation on Malaysia's Investment Performance for 2017.

Thank you.

**\*NOTE:**

**Tan Sri Chairman, please remain on stage to pass the Investment Performance Report (hardcopy) to YBM.**