

**Speech for YBhg. Dato' Azman Mahmud, CEO of MIDA
National Supply Chain Conference on Rail Projects
& Career Fair 2018
11 April 2017, Merdeka Hall, PWTC Kuala Lumpur**

Salutations

Your Excellencies

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning.

1. Thank you for joining us today at our National Supply Chain Conference on Rail Projects & Career Fair 2018. We are very encouraged to see such a widespread interest from the industry players.
2. This is the first time ever that we are bringing the main stakeholders in the rail industry in Malaysia under the same roof to discuss our way forward in supporting the country's national agenda of becoming a high income nation.
3. This event would not have been a success without the strong support from the key players in the Rail Industry, particularly the Land Public Transport Commission (SPAD), Prasarana, ERL, MRT Corp, myHSR Corp, and Malaysia Rail Link (MRL). A special thank you to all our speakers and moderator for your valuable participation at today's conference.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Developing opportunities for SMEs to participate in the supply chains of the MNCs in Malaysia has been an on-going effort of MIDA. This Supply Chain conference series is one of MIDA's signature programmes towards this goal. In 2016, MIDA organised the first Supply Chain conference with a focus on Smart Manufacturing. Subsequently in 2017, MIDA organised nationwide programmes at the regional and national levels based on the economic drivers of each region. These initiatives have reached more than 3,000 industry players. We have also organised more than 500 business matching sessions with 84 SMEs participating as anchor companies.
5. Through these efforts, local companies and SMEs have benefitted from the opportunity to access the local and global markets. It has also encouraged MNCs and foreign companies to explore and leverage on the strengths of the local companies in their manufacturing activities. In the long term, we seek to minimise the risk of the country's current account deficit by promoting the substitution of imported raw materials, components and services with the locally produced materials and services; particularly in the construction of mega projects.
6. Recognising that infrastructure development is an important catalyst to promote investments to spur the country's economic growth, we are intensifying efforts to promote sustainable linkages between all stakeholders. We want to encourage the transfer of advanced technology, increase of employment opportunities and talent development as well as sustain the growth of local industry players including SMEs in various related industry sectors.

7. We hope that through today's conference more business linkages will be created among Rail Owners/Operators and Project Delivery Partners with rail supporting industry players and SMEs in Malaysia. In the long term, these mutually beneficial strategic partnerships will boost the rail industry ecosystem.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The development of rail projects, particularly the High Speed Rail connecting Kuala Lumpur and East Jurong, Singapore; and the East Coast Rail Link between Port Klang to Tumpat, Kelantan; will further grow the industrial clusters such as manufacturing facilities and services hubs along these railway corridors.
9. There is a Rail Pavilion on the floor just below (*Level 3*) featuring 28 exhibits including Keretapi Tanah Melayu Berhad (KTMB), SPAD, Prasarana, ERL, MRT Corp, myHSR Corp, MRL and many more. Please spend some time to find out more on the developments of these on-going infrastructure projects that are taking place in our country today.
10. We have also taken the opportunity to organise a Career Fair in conjunction to today's conference. It is our largest career fair to date, featuring 100 companies offering more than 20,000 job opportunities.
11. Our work in ensuring a comprehensive ecosystem for Malaysia does not end here. Complementing our efforts today, MIDA has also embarked on a nationwide series to spur the development of industrial parks. Our Industrial Park Forum is a response to meet the needs of new emerging industries, particularly in terms of internet connectivity, industry 4.0 elements, efficient management of park facilities, eco-waste management and adequate supply of utility requirements.
12. In the context of the rail industry, MIDA is pleased to know that the Malaysian Rail Industry Corporation (MARIC) has come out with a proposal to set up a dedicated industrial park to streamline the rail industrial ecosystem. We are following closely on the development of this proposal and stand ready to assist where necessary.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. Given the on-going technological advancement in the rail industry, it is important for local rail supporting industry players or SMEs to raise efficiency levels, strengthen inter-firm linkages and respond timely to market changes in order to remain competitive and to be part of the rail development ecosystem.
14. Please leverage on this event and explore opportunities to not only participate in the rail project supply chain, but to also emulate best practices, particularly in embracing advanced technologies.
15. Do take advantage of the Business Matching session held later in the afternoon to gather more insights and explore various areas of collaborations in the rail projects.
16. Lastly, please feel free to approach any of our officers should you have any further enquiries.
17. On that note, I wish you all a productive day ahead.

Thank you.