

SPEECH FOR MR. ARHAM ABDUL RAHMAN  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER II OF MIDA  
INDUSTRIAL PARK FORUM FOR NORTHERN REGION  
*“Strengthening the Manufacturing Ecosystem”*  
18 OCTOBER 2018, WEIL HOTEL IPOH PERAK

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Acknowledgement

YB Dr. Ong Kian Ming,  
Deputy Minister of MITI

YB Dato Seri Ir. Haji Mohamad Nizar bin Jamaluddin  
State EXCO and Chairman of the State Investment and Corridor Development Committee

YBhg. Dato’ Gan Tack Kong  
Chairman of the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) Perak

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good morning and a very warm welcome to everyone. Thank you for taking the time to join us here today. I was in Perak just two weeks ago with YB Dr. Ong, and it is good to be back again to meet more of the business community here.
2. Our special thanks to the State Government of Perak, especially YB Dato Seri Ir. Haji Mohammad Nizar, for his full support in making this event a success. YB even hosted the preparatory meeting for the organisation of this Forum at his office last month. Thank you again, YB Dato’ Seri.
3. Today’s forum is the third in MIDA’s Industrial Park series that is organised in collaboration with FMM. The first forum was held in Selangor in March 2018 to cater for the Central Region and the second session was organised in Johor Bahru for the Southern Region, which covered Melaka and Johor. Both forums were well attended, and we appreciate all the feedback and suggestions received during the events. We hope to see another active discussion today in addressing various issues affecting the investors as well as park developers and managers.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. 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.
5. In the Northern region alone, a total of 5,500 manufacturing projects have been approved and implemented as at 2017. These projects amounted to RM178.5 billion of investments. Foreign investments accounted for RM119.4 billion or 67% of total investments while domestic investments made up the rest. In addition to creating more than 680,000 jobs, these projects

have also opened doors for spill over benefits to be enjoyed by local businesses in Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis as well as the overall economy.

6. For the first half of this year, MIDA has approved an additional 88 manufacturing projects with investments of RM3.1 billion for the northern region. Once these projects are realised, we will be looking at 5,171 more job opportunities for the region.
7. Perak alone attracted a total of 16 approved manufacturing projects worth RM364.5 million in the first half of 2018. We expect more to come. The recent MOUs that were signed between Invest Perak and 5 companies, once realised, will translate to RM1.9 billion worth of investments. In addition, MIDA already has a total of 15 manufacturing projects in the pipeline for Perak with proposed investments of RM755.7 million.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Malaysia's 13 states and 3 federal territories offer their unique strengths and ecosystems to investors. It is our desire to undertake initiatives in every state to encourage more equitable spread of investments throughout Malaysia.
9. While Perak is well-known for its Old Town White Coffee, soya bean curd (*tau foo fah*), hot springs and limestone hills, the state also has a very diversified industrial portfolio. This includes the manufacturing of electrical and electronics products, non-metallic mineral products, shipbuilding, machinery and foundry, automotive and transport equipment as well as oil and gas fabrication industries.
10. This can be testified by the notable companies that are successfully operating in the state such as Finisar, Lhoist, Lafarge, Vale, Yamaha Electronics, Top Glove, Hong Leong Group, Proton, Toyo Tire & Rubber, Salutica Allied Solutions and Bromma.
11. We are pleased to note that the State Government has given special attention to attract quality foreign direct investments to the state. With the efforts and initiatives undertaken by the Kumpulan Perbadanan Kemajuan Negeri Perak (PKNP); as well as private developers such as Stellar World (Pengkalan Hulu) and Proton City Development Corporation (Tanjung Malim), we strongly believe that the state is moving towards the right direction in preparing for the new wave of investors. I trust that we will hear more about this during the panel presentations and discussions after this.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. MIDA continues to undertake various activities and programmes in paving the way for further growth, particularly among domestic industry players. For the first nine months of this year, MIDA has engaged and collaborated with many SME companies in Perak through various platforms including Mini Seminars as well as networking & dialogue sessions. We engaged with business associations such as PERDASAMA, Malaysian Plastic Manufacturer Association, Dewan Perniagaan dan Perindustrian Melayu Perak and Dewan Perdagangan Islam Malaysia (Perak). Through these platforms, information and advice were shared in assisting the SMEs to grow and develop their businesses to a higher level.

13. Next month, MIDA Perak, in collaboration with the Perak Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry will organise a mini supply chain seminar, and a representative from an MNC will be invited to identify potential domestic suppliers for its localisation programme. Please register with MIDA to get updated on various events that we organise.
14. Before I end, I would like to thank the moderators and panellists for their support in making this Forum a success. We look forward to your active participation during today's event and exchange of views and perspectives in enhancing the industrial parks in Malaysia.

Thank you.