

**Speech for Mr Zabidi Mahbar, Senior Executive Director of MIDA
Industrial Park & Investment Facilitation Forum
'Strengthening the Manufacturing Ecosystem'
Marriot Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah
17 December 2018, 9am**

Salutations

YB Dr. Ong Kian Ming
Deputy Minister of International Trade & Industry

YB Tuan Chong Chen Bin
Assistant Minister of the Ministry of Trade and Industries, Sabah

Mr Nordin Ening
MIDA Board Member

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning & Salam Sejahtera

1. A warm welcome and thank you for joining us at the Industrial Park & Investment Facilitation Forum. MIDA is pleased to once again collaborate with the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) as well as the Sabah state authorities to undertake this 4th and last installation of our industrial park forum series.
2. Our previous three events have together benefitted over 800 participants, and we trust that this forum today will continue to benefit all stakeholders present here.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. For more than 50 years MIDA has been promoting and facilitating foreign and domestic direct investments in Malaysia. Our efforts have successfully attracted more than 5,000 multinational companies to set up their facilities in Malaysia. This has helped to develop local companies to be part of their supply chain network.
4. We continue to attract foreign and domestic investments not only in Peninsular Malaysia, but also in East Malaysia. Sabah is certainly one of Malaysia's destinations for investment. In fact, I am pleased to highlight that following MIDA's Invest Sabah briefing held at MIDA headquarters in October, we have received encouraging interest. Tomorrow, there will be **19** eager investors from **11** companies flying into Sabah to explore for themselves the opportunities available in the areas of Oil & Gas, Logistics, Engineering Services, Infrastructure Development and Consulting Services, for their expansion plans.
5. Nevertheless, in order to encourage more direct investments, it is important for us to ensure that the environment is conducive for businesses to prosper. Having the right ecosystems and well-

managed infrastructure are important for existing investors to expand their operations and for prospective investors to choose Malaysia as their base.

6. Thus, we have gathered panelists from a range of areas today to discuss on the current state of industrial parks in Sabah, as well as to work together to address the challenges. We hope that by getting everyone together under one roof, we can move faster to re-engineer our industrial parks and meet the demands of new emerging industries.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Later this morning, we will be hearing from three industrial park owners in Sabah namely the Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP), POIC Sabah and Sabah Oil & Gas Development Corporation (SOGDC) that will be discussing on issues and challenges faced in promoting their respective parks to investors.
8. As safety and security are important in ensuring sustainable development in the state, we will also have the Eastern Sabah Security Command (ESSCOM) to address the state's security matters during the session. The panel session will be moderated by Datuk Chong, president of the Federation of Sabah Industries. I trust that this will be an engaging session for all of us.
9. Meanwhile in the afternoon, we will have representatives from MITI, MIDA and other government agencies such as MATRADE, EXIM BANK, SIRIM and MIDF to share more on the services and facilities available by the Government in supporting growth in the industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. Being an organisation half a century old, MIDA's priority remains the same. We are here to ensure that Malaysia achieves its goals and aspirations, creating wealth that translates to tangible benefits felt by all across Malaysia.
11. We continue to undertake various activities and programmes in paving the way for further growth, particularly among domestic industry players. Earlier this year, MIDA has set up a dedicated team called the Investment Coordination Platform or ICP to facilitate companies to grow their businesses and investment portfolio. The unit works closely with equity firms, 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. Please talk to us to find out more on how we can facilitate you in these areas.
12. On 30 October, YB Datuk Darell Leiking, our MITI Minister has launched MIDA's i-Services Portal. This is a single market place to link investors and companies interested to source for domestic services with local service providers. By registering on this portal, local service providers can expand their makets and boost business activities in today's globalised and rapidly-changing business environment.
13. Before I end, I would like to once again thank everybody here for taking the time to participate in this forum. Also a big thank you to the moderators, panelists and exhibitors for their support in making today's event a success. I wish all of you a very productive day ahead.