



**SPEECH FOR MR. ZABIDI MAHBAR
SENIOR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
STRATEGIC PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT**

**MIDA INVEST SERIES:
UNFOLDING STATES' BUSINESS POTENTIAL
A BRIEFING BY MINISTRY OF
INDUSTRIAL & ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT, SARAWAK**

**29 January 2019 (Tuesday)
Perdana Hall, Level 10, MIDA**

Salutation

YBhg. Datu Liaw Soon Eng

Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Industrial & Entrepreneur Development, Sarawak

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good Morning. Welcome to the seventh briefing of MIDA's 'Invest Series: Unfolding States Potential' organised in collaboration with the state agencies of Malaysia.
2. Before today's event, our Invest Series have featured Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Pahang, Terengganu and Sabah since early last year. We continue the momentum today by highlighting the competitive and comparative advantages of Sarawak.
3. YBhg. Datu Liaw is with us today to share on the latest development and investment opportunities in Sarawak. I trust that all of us today will gain much insight from the sharing later.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Being the largest of all 13 states in Malaysia, there are certainly many reasons for companies to base their operations in Sarawak. As at September 2018, a total of 1,120 manufacturing projects with investments worth RM137.3 billion have been approved in Sarawak. These projects have created over 175,000 job opportunities, mainly in the natural gas, chemical and chemical products, basic metal products, petroleum products (including Petrochemicals) and electronics and electrical products sectors. There is a strong presence of MNCs and Large Local Corporations (LLCs) in the state. These companies, such as Petronas, OCIM, Longi, X-Fab and Press Metal, hold much promise for business collaborations and opportunities.
5. I would like to take this opportunity to provide some updates on MITI and MIDA's current initiatives. As most of you are aware, the National Policy on Industry 4.0 or Industry4WRD has been launched by our Prime Minister at MITI in October last year. As part of the latest initiative under Industry4WRD, MITI has established a national Readiness Assessment Programme. This is a comprehensive programme to help firms assess their capabilities and readiness in order to guide their adoption of Industrial 4.0 technologies.
6. By determining the state of readiness, companies will also be able to identify gaps and areas of improvement for Industry 4.0 adoption as well as to develop feasible strategies to take their operations to the next level. Under this programme, 500 SMEs involved in the manufacturing sector and manufacturing-related services would be selected for a free assessment of their IR 4.0 readiness. I urge companies present today to take advantage of this programme. More updates will be released by MITI from time to time.
7. Meanwhile, for MIDA, we have introduced several new initiatives last year to further develop opportunities for domestic companies. One of them is the set-up of a dedicated team called the Investment Coordination Platform (ICP) to facilitate companies to grow their businesses and investment portfolio. The unit works closely with equity and 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. To all interested parties, please feel free to talk to us to find out more on how we can facilitate you in these areas.

8. Another initiative is the introduction of MIDA's i-Services Portal which was launched by our MITI Minister, YB Datuk Darell Leiking at last year's National Investment Seminar. This portal is a single market place to link investors and companies interested to source for domestic services from local service providers. We encourage local service providers to register your business in the portal as this is an effective, cost-efficient medium to showcase your capabilities and expertise. This gateway will also help companies to expand their markets and further boost business activities. To the government agencies present today, I hope you can help us to extend news of this portal to your respective stakeholders.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. Going forward, MIDA will continue to undertake engagements such as today to ensure that Malaysia achieves its goals and aspirations, creating wealth that translates to tangible benefits felt by all Malaysians. Together with MITI and its agencies, we will continue to work closely with the state government and authorities to create a more conducive business environment for businesses to grow.
10. Before I end, I would like to encourage all of you to visit MIED Sarawak's information booth at the Banquet Hall. Please take this opportunity to meet with them to further discuss your interest and investment plans.
11. On that note, I wish all of you a productive session ahead.

Thank you.