

**SPEECH FOR
Y.BHG. DATO' ABDUL MAJID AHMAD KHAN
CHAIRMAN OF MIDA
OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF
COCHLEAR'S GLOBAL REPAIR CENTRE IN MALAYSIA
18 JUNE 2019, 2.00PM - 5.30PM (TUESDAY)
VE HOTEL, BANGSAR SOUTH, KUALA LUMPUR**

Acknowledgement

Mr. Michael Growder
Acting High Commissioner
Australian High Commission, Malaysia

YBhg. Prof. Dato' Dr. Lokman Saim
Vice Chancellor and Dean, School of Medicine
KPJ Healthcare University College (Department of ORL)

Mr. Greg Bodkin
Senior Vice President of Supply Chain & Operational Excellence

Mr. Samuel Pooranakaran
Director of Cochlear Malaysia Operations

Distinguished guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good afternoon. It is a pleasure for me to be here to celebrate this important milestone for the Malaysian and Australian business community - the expansion of Cochlear's Global Repair Centre, where they will now **assemble replacement Nucleus 6 sound processors** for customers globally.
2. The business relationship that MIDA has with Cochlear goes a long way back. MIDA has been engaging with the company through its Sydney office for many years, but the success story of the company in Malaysia started when Cochlear established its Operational Headquarters (OHQ) in 2010. Since then, MIDA continued to engage closely with Cochlear to persuade the company to further expand its operation and Global Repair Centre services, here.
3. I am proud that the efforts and engagements made by the MIDA team, with the cooperation of other stakeholders have come to fruition. Thank you for your continued confidence in Malaysia as an investment location that fit your overall growth strategy for the region.
4. Cochlear's presence here also adds to the portfolio of companies from Australia that has invested in Malaysia. As of 2018, a total of 350 projects with Australian participation have been implemented with a total investment of RM2.8 billion. These projects have created more than 22,000 job opportunities in our country.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. This is indeed an exciting event for Malaysia. As most of you are aware, the medical devices industry has been identified as one of the high potential growth industries under the 11th Malaysia Plan due to its strong linkages to other manufacturing subsectors. Therefore, we view this project as a catalyst to boost the development of the medical device ecosystem in the country and hope that it will attract other global medical device industry players to also invest in Malaysia.
6. As of 2018, a total of 382 medical devices projects have been implemented with investments worth RM18.4 billion in Malaysia. These projects have created more than 71,000 job opportunities for the country. For the first quarter of 2019, MIDA approved another six medical devices projects worth RM309.3 million.
7. To date, the country's medical devices industry is made of over 200 establishments, dominated by small and medium-sized companies (SMEs). Of the total, there is over 30 medical devices multinational corporation (MNCs) from around the globe that have made Malaysia their offshore operations. This has enhanced the country's position as an outsourcing destination and global supplier of medical parts and components.
8. Over 90 per cent of medical devices manufactured in Malaysia is for export markets. This shows that Malaysian made medical devices are of world class quality and recognised for its adherence to the global regulatory compliance systems.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Cochlear is an example of the type of investments we want to see coming into Malaysia. I am pleased to note that the company has employed 195 Malaysians so far. Cochlear's effort to enhance the skills of these local employees, especially in the field of hearing implants is commendable. I was informed that these employees had undergone specific trainings in Malaysia and Australia. I believe that these local talents will gain so much experience from the transfer of technology and know-how.
10. Leveraging on the availability of the established supporting industries conforming to the world-class standard, we trust that Cochlear will be able to enjoy the many advantages Malaysia offers. MIDA will continue to be your partner and provide our full support to facilitate your business in the country.
11. On that note, I would like to once again congratulate Cochlear for your commitment to the country. We wish Cochlear a profitable and sustainable business expansion here in Malaysia.

Thank you.