

**REMARKS FOR MR. ARHAM ABD.RAHMAN
DEPUTY CEO OF MIDA**

**INDUSTRIAL PARK FORUM FOR SOUTHERN REGION
“STRENGTHENING THE MANUFACTURING ECOSYSTEM”**

28TH AUGUST 2018, HOLIDAY VILLA HOTEL, JOHOR BHARU

Acknowledgement

YB Dr. Ong Kian Ming
Deputy Minister of MITI

YB Jimmy Puah Wee Tse
Chairman of International Trade, Investment and Utility Committee, Johor

Captain (R) Haji Abdullah Shariff
Chairman of FMM

YM Engku Ahmad Kamel Engku Taib
Head, Economics & Investment of IRDA

Distinguished Guests

Members of the Media

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good morning and a very warm welcome to the Industrial Park Forum for Southern Region. It feels good to be back to address the crowd from the local business chambers, industrial estate developers & managers, local authorities and utilities companies. Thank you for your continued interest, and for taking the time to join us today.
2. The first Industrial Park Forum which covers the Central Region was successfully organised in March this year. It benefited more than 200 stakeholders.

3. Today's Forum marks the second of its series organised by MIDA, in collaboration with the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM). This time, we are covering the Southern Region encompassing Johor and Melaka.
4. I would like to record my appreciation to FMM for the continuous support and contribution in making this Forum a success.
5. Today's event will feature panel presentations by reputable speakers from various industrial park developers. The session will be **moderated** by **Mr. Engku Ahmad Kamel bin Engku Taib, Head of Economic and Investment of Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA)**.
6. Later in the afternoon, there will be another **panel discussion session with French Chambers** and selected industry players.
7. Please take advantage of this **valuable platform** to discuss, network, and **establish common understanding and framework in strengthening our industry ecosystem**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Industrial parks are the **key elements of infrastructure** that **support the growth** of today's global economy. The existence of a well-developed park can be **an incubator to attract high quality investments** into the country.
9. MIDA believes that industrial parks in Malaysia have always been specific to states, leveraging on the competitive and comparative advantages of each region. We have to **re-engineer our industrial parks** to meet the demand of investors.
10. In view of this, there is a need to have a **single body or authority to oversee and regulate the industrial parks**; and at the same time to **assist potential investors in identifying suitable area** to locate their facilities.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. The Southern region has become the home of many renowned global companies and it is well supported by local players which supplies raw materials, parts and components as well as providing ancillary services. This has generally enhanced the robustness of the country's economy.
12. This development also contributes to Johor being among the top recipients of investments in the manufacturing sector. As at **December 2017**, a total of **4,536 projects with investments** valued at **RM147.7 billion** have been implemented in the state of **Johor**. These projects have created more than **490,000 job opportunities** in the country. Of these, **282,612 (57%)** are in the **managerial, supervisory, technical and skilled positions**.
13. One of the factors contributing to the investment performance is the availability of new and modern industrial zones in Johor. We are pleased to note that Government-linked companies such as **Khazanah Nasional, UEM Sunrise, and JCorp**; as well as **private developers** such as **AME Development, MMC Corporation** and **EcoWorld** are actively involved in the development of industrial parks in Johor.
14. We take note that **AME Development** has been awarded **The Star 2018 THE BUSINESS ESTATE AWARD** under the **Best Industrial Park Development** for their **I-Park projects in Senai Airport City & Indahpura**; and **EdgeProp Malaysia's Responsible Developer for Building Sustainable Award 2018**.
15. As one of our speakers for today's event, **AME Development** will share their **success story for us to learn, and benchmark their best practices and approaches**.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

16. For your information, the next **Industrial Park Forum series** will be held in **Perak** to cover the **Northern Region** in **October** and in **Sabah** for **East Malaysia**, in **November** this year.

17. Before I end, I would like to again thank all parties involved, including my fellow MIDA colleagues and FMM for making this event possible.

Thank you.