

**SPEECH FOR MR. ARHAM ABDUL RAHMAN  
DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER I  
MIDA INVEST SERIES:  
UNFOLDING STATES' BUSINESS POTENTIAL  
A BRIEFING BY NEGERI SEMBILAN STATE GOVERNMENT  
21 FEBRUARY 2020 (FRIDAY)  
PERDANA HALL, LEVEL 10, MIDA**

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**Salutation**

**YB. Dato' Dr. Mohamad Rafie bin Ab Malek**

EXCO of Investment, Industrial, Entrepreneurship, Education and Human Capital

**Tuan Hj. Najmuddin Sharif bin Sarimon**

CEO, Negeri Sembilan Investment Centre (NSIC)

**Tn. Ab Rahim bin Ab Rahman**

Director of NS Corporation

Head of Secretariat Malaysia Vision Valley (MVV)

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Good Morning. Welcome to the tenth briefing of MIDA's 'Invest Series: Unfolding States Potential' and for those who have been following our Invest Series programme, welcome back!
2. Since last year, MIDA has featured Selangor, Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan, Pahang, Terengganu, Sabah, Sarawak and Pulau Pinang in our Invest Series programmes. Today, we will be highlighting the competitive and comparative advantages of Negeri Sembilan, and we are very honoured to have the support from YB Dato' Dr. Mohamad Rafie who will share with us the business opportunities and facilities available in the State including the latest development of the Malaysia Vision Valley. I am confident that all of us will gain much insight from the sharing session later.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Malaysia continues to be a preferred investment destination despite the challenging global economic environment. Negeri Sembilan has been one of the recipients of these investments. The close working relationship between the Federal and State Government is key to developing and improving the state's standing in the country.
4. As at June 2019, there were 901 manufacturing projects implemented in Negeri Sembilan, with total investments of RM37.2 billion. Majority of these investments were from foreign source recording a total of RM25.3 billion or 68% while the rest were from domestic sources. These projects, which have created over 100,000 job opportunities, were mainly in the electrical and electronics (E&E) products, textiles and textile products, and rubber products industries.
5. For January-September 2019, Negeri Sembilan attracted a total of 33 manufacturing projects worth RM2.6 billion. Domestic investments contributed 69 per cent of the total investments approved for Negeri Sembilan, for the period. The total approved investments for the whole year of 2019 will be announced by YB Minister of MITI on 3 March 2020.
6. Notable companies operating in Negeri Sembilan include Samsung, On Semiconductor, Coca-Cola, Ajinomoto, Daihatsu, Safran and Kibing. These companies hold much promise for further business collaborations and opportunities for local businesses.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. As announced in May last year, MIDA has established the East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) team as a dedicated contact point to facilitate and promote the development of the Economic Accelerator Projects (EAP) along the ECRL corridor. The 640-kilometre ECRL project is expected to be completed by December 2026, with realigned track passing through 20 stations that will span from Kota Bharu (Kelantan) through to Port Klang (Selangor).

8. The MIDA's ECRL team is currently engaging with the respective states and interested parties to inform and promote the EAPs. The EAPs will include the development of industrial parks in the East Coast and West Coast of Peninsular Malaysia to attract trade and investments along the ECRL corridor.
9. We would like to encourage local and international companies to invest in the Economic Accelerator Projects (EAPs). With the inflows of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) & Domestic Investment (DI) and potential growth for industrial, commercial and tourism sectors, the railway will contribute towards bridging the development gap between the east and west coasts of Peninsular Malaysia.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

10. The Government has been persistently undertaking efforts to promote and facilitate local companies, particularly for SMEs, to scale up and accelerate their adoption of smart manufacturing and Industry 4.0 technology through various incentives and facilities.
11. For example, the Government has launched the Industry4WRD Readiness Assessment Intervention Programme known as 'Industry4WRD Intervention Fund' in Budget 2019. It is a financial support facility for Malaysian SMEs in the manufacturing and related services sectors to embrace Industry 4.0.
12. This Fund is eligible for all SMEs which have completed the government-funded Industry4WRD Readiness Assessment (RA) programme. MITI has appointed MIDA as the Implementing Agency for the Industry4WRD Intervention Fund.
13. The fund is provided on a matching basis (70:30), based on eligible expenditures, up to a maximum grant of RM500,000.00. A maximum of 30% of the matching amount (70% of the total grant) will be given upfront to companies upon approval by the Intervention Fund Approval Committee at MITI.

14. Another facility introduced by the Government under Budget 2019 is the 'Industry4WRD Domestic Investment Strategic Fund (DISF)'. The Industry4WRD DISF provides matching grant in the form of 60:40 ratio based on a reimbursable basis to Malaysian companies which have undertaken the Industry4WRD RA programme.
15. In addition to the facilities mentioned just now, and recognising that funding is among the challenges involved for many, MIDA further assists local companies or SMEs through its Domestic Investment Coordination Platform (DICP) to bridge or narrow their financial and technology gaps by establishing strategic collaborations and joint ventures between these companies and financial institutions, equity firms, or technology providers.
16. MIDA is also involved in nurturing startups in Deep Tech. In this regard, MIDA will be organising the Innovation Pitch and Business Matching (IPBM) this year. We will also organise the Tech Startup Pitching session during the upcoming SEMICON SEA 2020.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. Malaysia offers sound economic fundamentals and capabilities in providing the right mix of ingredients as a profitable destination for new companies to grow in the region. We also believe there is much more room for expansion or diversification for existing companies in Malaysia to reinvest, particularly in new growth areas. Please leverage on all programmes and facilities provided by the government.
18. Engagements such as these should not be a one-way street. We encourage your feedback on issues or challenges you encountered for us to fine-tune our policies. Our doors are always open and MIDA officials are ever willing to respond to your enquiries. On that note, I wish you all a productive day ahead.

Thank you.