



**MINISTRY OF  
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**KEYNOTE SPEECH BY**

**YB SENATOR TENGKU DATUK SERI UTAMA ZAFRUL  
TENGKU ABDUL AZIZ**

**MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE, AND INDUSTRY**

**FOR**

**GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY OF  
SUPPLY CHAIN CITY® MALAYSIA**

**29 MAY 2025 (THURSDAY) | 5:00 – 6:30 PM  
BANDAR BUKIT RAJA, KLANG**

**Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Nazir Razak**, Chairman of the ASEAN-BAC, Malaysia Chapter,

**Your Excellency Mr. Shivakumar Nair**, Acting High Commissioner of Singapore to Malaysia,

**Yang Berbahagia Dato' Sikh Shamsul**, CEO of MIDA Malaysia

**Yang Berbahagia Dato' Seri Azmir Merican**, Group Managing Director of Sime Darby Property,

**Yang Berusaha Dr. Robert Yap**, Executive Chairman of YCH Group,

**Yang Berusaha Mr. Ryan Yap**, Head of Malaysia, YCH Group,

Members of the Media,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

*Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI* and a very good afternoon to all of you.

1. I am honoured today to attend the ground-breaking ceremony of Supply Chain City© Malaysia. A landmark project by YCH Group in partnership with Sime Darby Property which reflects **Malaysia's rising prominence as a strategic logistics and trade hub in ASEAN.**

Congratulations to both parties on this significant project as Malaysia assumes the ASEAN Chairmanship for 2025.

2. I am excited to note that the RM500 million investment by YCH Group for the Supply Chain City© is more than just a warehouse or distribution centre — it is also a hub for technological advancement, supply chain resilience, and sustainable economic growth. I am further encouraged that this project is **YCH's significant expansion in Malaysia** and the first project under Malaysia's New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030), which aims to **accelerate industrial transformation through advanced supply chain solutions and logistics innovation.**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **Supporting Malaysia's Growth**

3. This event comes at an opportune time. In 2024, Malaysia achieved a significant **RM378.5 billion in approved investments, a 14.9% increase** from the previous year. These investments, spanning **6,700 projects, will create over 207,000 new jobs for Malaysians.** Such figures highlight not only the confidence global investors have in Malaysia but also our ability to navigate economic uncertainties with strength and agility.

4. As Malaysia cements its role as ASEAN's preferred investment destination, the logistics sector plays a critical role in driving our industrial and trade growth. I am confident that the **Supply Chain City© Malaysia will serve to align the vision of both the New Industrial Master Plan 2030 and the ASEAN Smart Logistics Network (ASLN)** by strengthening connectivity, enhancing trade efficiency, and optimising supply chain operations.
5. With its state-of-the-art automation, AI-driven logistics systems, and sustainability solutions, **this facility will elevate Malaysia's logistics industry to a new level of global competitiveness.**

### **Global Supply Chain Disruptions and Regional Cooperation**

6. In today's globalised economy, supply chain disruptions resulting from geopolitical tensions have become the norm. **Businesses must now plan for resilience, agility, and adaptability.** This is where **regional cooperation** becomes critical.
7. Malaysia, as a key player in ASEAN, is committed to fostering stronger regional partnerships to address these challenges. Just a couple of days ago, we concluded the

**ASEAN-GCC-China Summit**, a historic gathering that showcased the **strength and coordination of ASEAN in navigating global challenges**. This summit sent a clear message to the world: ASEAN is open for business, and **we are ready to lead in building a more resilient and interconnected global economy**. Supply Chain City© Malaysia is a testament to this vision, as it will enhance connectivity and facilitate trade between ASEAN and the rest of the world.

8. ASEAN is one of the fastest-growing regions in the world, with a combined GDP of over USD 3.6 trillion and a population of more than 680 million people. As the world's **fifth-largest economy, ASEAN is a critical player in the global supply chain, accounting for nearly 7% of global trade**.
9. As the **ASEAN Chair for 2025**, Malaysia is uniquely positioned to **drive initiatives that enhance regional integration and economic resilience**. Our theme for the ASEAN Chairmanship, "Inclusivity and Sustainability," underscores our commitment to fostering innovation, sustainability, and inclusivity across the region.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **Malaysia's Leadership in ASEAN**

10. Under Malaysia's leadership, ASEAN is poised to address critical challenges such as supply chain disruptions, digital transformation, and climate change. We are working closely with our ASEAN partners to implement the **ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF)**, which aims to ensure a robust and sustainable recovery from the economic impacts of recent global crises.
11. One of our key priorities is to enhance the **ASEAN Single Window (ASW)**, a digital platform that streamlines trade processes across member states. By reducing bureaucracy and improving trade efficiency, the ASW will play a pivotal role in strengthening regional supply chains and boosting intra-ASEAN trade, which currently accounts for nearly 25% of total ASEAN trade.
12. Additionally, Malaysia is championing the development of the **ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA)**, which seeks to harmonise digital trade regulations and promote cross-border e-commerce. This initiative will not only enhance digital connectivity but also create new

opportunities for businesses and consumers across the region.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **Workforce Development and Innovation**

13. I am delighted to learn that this development highlights the importance of future-proofing Malaysia's supply chain ecosystem. The integration of the **LEARN™ ecosystem, in collaboration with Singapore's Supply Chain and Logistics Academy (SCALA)**, will ensure that our **logistics talent is equipped with the necessary skills and expertise to thrive in an evolving industry.**
14. In line with our commitment to digital transformation, this project also offers the potential for the **adoption of smart logistics solutions**, further enhancing efficiency and transparency in our supply chains. This aligns with our broader **national agenda to embrace the digital economy and leverage technology for economic advancement.**
15. This initiative reflects our national commitment to **building a high-skilled workforce** that can support Malaysia's transformation into a regional logistics powerhouse. Beyond its technological advancements, the **project is also**

**expected to offer both skilled and semi-skilled job opportunities**, further strengthening Malaysia's SMART Warehouse and logistics ecosystem.

16. This investment will play a significant role in fostering local employment and enhancing Malaysia's position as a leader in high-value logistics infrastructure.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

### **Closing**

17. With Supply Chain City© Malaysia, the industry is not just shaping the future of logistics — they are shaping the future of Malaysia, ASEAN, and the global economy. This project embodies the **spirit of innovation, collaboration, and resilience that defines our nation and the region**. It is a testament to Malaysia's commitment to fostering sustainable growth, enhancing regional integration, and driving economic transformation.
18. I commend YCH Group, Sime Darby Property, and stakeholders involved in this initiative for their vision and commitment. **The Government**, through MITI and other relevant agencies, **stands ready to support this endeavour and ensure its success**.



19. Let us continue to work hand in hand, leveraging our collective strengths to overcome challenges and seize the immense potential that lies ahead.
20. **Thank you**, and I wish you all a successful and an impactful journey ahead.