

**WELCOMING REMARKS  
BY  
YB DATO' SERI MOHAMED AZMIN ALI  
SENIOR MINISTER  
MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**DI  
MAJLIS PERJUMPAAN YAB PERDANA MENTERI  
BERSAMA PIHAK INDUSTRI**

**Date : 15 April 2021 (Thursday)  
Time : 11.00 a.m.  
Venue : Menara MITI**

**YAB Tan Sri Dato' Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd. Yassin,**  
Prime Minister

**YB Senator Datuk Lim Ban Hong,**  
Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry

**Datuk Lokman Hakim Ali,**  
Secretary General of MITI

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and gentlemen.

Ramadhan Kareem

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and  
salam sejahtera,

First and foremost, I wish to express our profound appreciation to our Prime Minister for his presence here today. I also wish to extend a warm welcome to our guests and colleagues from the industry associations and business chambers for joining us this morning.

I strongly believe that regular engagements are pivotal to ensure that we have our finger on the pulse of the nation's economy, of what is driving our industries and businesses, and what it takes for us to remain competitive in trade and investment.

Indeed, trade and investment will continue to be integral tools for our recovery. And it will be imperative for the Government and the private sector to work hand in hand in this regard.

Today's session takes on special significance with the distinguished presence of YAB Tan Sri. This platform is timely and opportune – as the Government works to review and update our policies to make them more responsive and relevant to the needs of industries and businesses.

I shall not rehash the trials and tribulations that all of us have endured due to the onslaught of COVID-19. Indeed, this pandemic spared no one, a global crisis that has affected every citizen of the world.

Nevertheless, thanks to bold, decisive and timely action on the part of the Government and the industry, and with the unwavering commitment of the people - no doubt under the behest and relentless drive of the Prime Minister himself - we are where we are today in terms of our health and our economy.

The battle against COVID-19 has always been waged on a collective basis. In this regard, the role of industry is paramount in ensuring that we win this battle in a sustainable fashion. Hence, our MITI led program Safe@Work remains essential to

deal with the disruption of operations whenever COVID-19 cases occur in work premises. And with the National Immunisation Program in progress, Government-industry cooperation in fighting the virus must continue so that we can successfully move to the next level in our trajectory for economic recovery and resilience.

It bears stressing that the agenda of defining Malaysia's investment value proposition is encapsulated in our National Investment Aspiration (NIA), a forward-looking strategy aimed at attracting quality investments driven by innovation, high-technology, green economy and greater inclusion of domestic supply chains. At the same time, we have taken on board the need to ensure that reforms are aligned with global benchmarks, including the Environment, Social and Governance (ESG) goals. In addition, outcomes on this front will also reflect our commitment in facilitating investors, enhancing efficiency and improving the ease of doing business.

On that note, I have the singular honour of inviting YAB Prime Minister to share his thoughts and perspectives on how best we can go forward.

## **CONCLUDING REMARKS**

Today has been a truly productive and meaningful session. It was indeed heartening to hear the candid views of all our industry collaborators present here.

I must once again thank the Prime Minister for being at the forefront of the engagement and, as you yourself have heard, the matters raised will be looked into promptly and expeditiously.