



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

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

**DAYONE SYNDICATED FINANCING
& CORPORATE RENEWABLE ENERGY SUPPLY SCHEME
SIGNING CEREMONY**

**GRAND SALON BALLROOM, LEVEL 1, GRAND HYATT
KUALA LUMPUR**

2:55 PM – 3:05 PM | 11 JUNE 2025

YBhg. Datuk Ir. Megat Jalaluddin Bin Megat Hassan,
President & CEO, Tenaga Nasional Berhad,

YBhg. Dato' Khairussaleh Ramli,
President & Group Chief Executive Officer, Maybank,

Mr. Lim Ah Doo,
Co-Chairman, DayOne Data Centres,

Ms Jamie Khoo,
Chief Executive Officer, DayOne Data Centres,

Mr. Edmund Leong,
MD & Head, Group Corporate Banking & Investment Banking,
UOB,

Friends from CIMB, OCBC, DBS, Credit Agricole, Standard Chartered, Tenaga Nasional, representatives from BCG,

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum, a very good afternoon and Salam Malaysia MADANI.

1. It's a pleasure to be here this afternoon. Today is far more than a ceremony, it is a statement about who we are, where Malaysia is heading, and the future we are determined to build together.
2. We are living in an era where change is relentless. Every day, technology is transforming the way we live, the way we do business, and the way we connect with one another. Across the globe, nations are racing to strengthen digital infrastructure, unlock the potential of artificial intelligence (AI), and ensure their economies remain resilient in the face of uncertainty.
3. **Malaysia is not just keeping pace with this transformation; we are determined to lead it.** And today, as we mark this financing syndication and the launch of **CRESS**, we send a clear and confident message to the region and the world: Malaysia is open, Malaysia is ambitious, and Malaysia is ready to drive the digital and green transformation of Southeast Asia.

DIGITAL AMBITIONS AND INVESTMENT MOMENTUM

4. Let's take a moment to reflect on the real progress we are making. In the **first quarter of 2025 alone, Malaysia approved nearly RM90 billion in new investments, a 3.7% increase over the same period last year**. This **created more than 33,000 jobs, involving close to 1,600 projects**. What's encouraging is that almost two-thirds of this approved value came from the services sector, led by digital and communications projects. **That's RM57.8 billion channelled directly into the ecosystem of our digitally-powered future economy**, a clear signal of growing confidence in Malaysia's digital vision, as clearly outlined by our New Industrial Master Plan and other key industrial policies.
5. The state of Johor, in particular, tells an even more compelling story. **In just the first three months of this year, the state attracted over RM30 billion in investments, with nearly 90% flowing into digital infrastructure**. This is tangible proof that one, investors are clear about our policies; two, we are attracting the right capital; and three, that our vision for Johor as Malaysia's gateway is fast becoming a reality.

6. This momentum is only set to grow. **By 2030, Johor is expected to host 60% of Malaysia's total data center capacity**, cementing its role as the digital hub for Southeast Asia. The vision is to create a nexus where global technology leaders, emerging unicorns, and local entrepreneurs can build and thrive together.
7. This transformation will be **accelerated by the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (JS-SEZ)**. The JS-SEZ has sped up our pace, scaled up our talent attraction initiative, and strengthened our supply chain connections within ASEAN and beyond. Johor is no longer just keeping up; it is setting the pace for digital ambition in the region.
8. At the regional level, **as ASEAN Chair for 2025, Malaysia is also actively driving the adoption of the ASEAN Digital Economy Framework Agreement (DEFA)**. DEFA aims to boost digital trade and unlock the potential of ASEAN's digital economy, which is projected to double to USD2 trillion by 2030.

WHY MALAYSIA? WHY NOW?

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. This **USD2-trillion pie is ripe for the picking**. But this may not happen without energy security and sustainability for your operations. But this may not happen without the energy security and sustainability that heavily capitalised projects demand.
10. This is where CRESS comes in. It allows hyperscale data centers and big energy users to buy RE directly from producers, **in this case, TNB, his market-driven solution is also what will get us to the 70% RE target in our energy generation mix by 2050.**
11. To complement this, **Malaysia has introduced the Guidelines for Sustainable and Purpose-Built Data Centres**, a framework that sets minimum requirements for energy efficiency, water stewardship, carbon management, as well as circular economy practices in new data centre investments. This lays down a clear framework for benchmarking your data centre projects against global sustainability standards. **With more than 70% of major global investors now requiring data centre projects to demonstrate robust ESG commitments**, this will surely support your own ESG goals, which, in turn, contributes to Malaysia's Net Zero target by 2050.

12. In short, CRESS, our national guidelines, our NIMP-driven renewable targets, and transparent reporting standards are shaping Malaysia into not just a hub for digital investment, but also the benchmark for responsible growth in ASEAN.
13. But truth be told, none of this matter if it does not also make commercial sense. According to recent analysis, **every RM1 invested in data centers creates RM2.60 in economic impact**. That multiplier creates real jobs for our people, and real opportunities for local SMEs and suppliers, generating real spending that cranks up our GDP.
14. Our **digital economy is already expected to contribute over 25% of national GDP this year**. In fact, by 2030, **digital investments will catalyse nearly RM400 billion in cumulative GDP**, which generates the resources to support everything from AI research to e-health, as well as improved e-services, digital banking and e-commerce.

THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIP

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. I am also pleased to share that foreign investor confidence in Malaysia has remained steady. In **the first quarter alone, we approved RM60.4 billion in foreign investment.** Singapore, the US and China were the top three source countries that have continued to invest in Malaysia, showing their trust, and their capital.
16. Many investors appreciate our **strategic location at the heart of ASEAN** - at the crossroads of the world's busiest trade and shipping routes, as well as digital corridors. They also like the security and cost-effectiveness of our energy supply, while frameworks like the JS-SEZ provide a roadmap for their future operations.
17. But what **often clinches the deal is our rule of law, clear policy environment, and strength of execution.** While these attributes may appear less 'glossy' or 'sexy' than cost-efficiency, strategic location and investment incentives, our investment facilitation such as streamlined approvals, single-window approach and much-improved multi-agency coordination are exactly what will make investors stay and expand their investments here.

18. In short, going back to basics and continuously improving them is what has strengthened the foundation of our partnership with investors, both foreign and domestic.

19. And that partnership is getting a different boost today, by a shared commitment called DayOne. Its vision: to set new benchmarks in digital infrastructure, while anchoring Malaysia as a regional leader in digital enablement and economy. This partnership is now backed by the strength and expertise of **not one, not two but seven**, whose credentials and prestige require no further elaboration.

20. Their participation demonstrates their confidence in Malaysia's growing credentials as a place where world-class ideas can be turned into reality, and where public-private partnerships create significant, sustainable outcomes.

21. The key player in this partnership is **none other than Tenaga Nasional**, working to ensure that our energy capacity grows in a cleaner and more reliable manner to support our industrial reforms and growth.

Government, including MITI, as a facilitator, play its role of bringing all of you together very seriously. Marrying our bold vision and clear policies with strong financial partners and a forward-thinking energy provider, Malaysia's digital investment and data centre landscape becomes much more than the sum of its parts. I am confident that the strength of this partnership is what will help us move further and faster together.

BEYOND MEGAWATTS: DIGITAL EMPOWERMENT FOR THE PEOPLE

Ladies and gentlemen,

22. At the heart of all our digital ambitions is a simple truth: technology, on its own, means nothing without people. That's why **Malaysia is making huge investments in talent**, in inclusion, and in building a future where every Malaysian has a meaningful stake in the nation's progress.

23. Through the **National AI Innovation Hub**, the **BINA AI Malaysia initiative**, and dynamic partnerships with our universities, we are aiming to upskill 800,000 **Malaysians by 2030**. We are **empowering more than 140**

local AI solution providers, ensuring that even the smallest enterprises are equipped to compete and succeed in the global digital economy.

24. We are also rolling out **Malaysia's first AI faculty at Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, implementing the AI Talent Roadmap 2024–2033**, and connecting SMEs to global digital supply chains.
25. Ultimately, our goal is to build not just for today's economy, but for a new generation of empowered Malaysian innovators, creators, and entrepreneurs to dream bigger and reach further.

CLOSING: MALAYSIA'S DIGITAL AND GREEN DESTINY

Ladies and gentlemen,

26. In closing, I would like to reiterate to investors that **Malaysia is open for business**, and that we are ready to lead regionally, as we build a future that is not just digital, but sustainable and inclusive.

27. To DayOne, our banking syndicate, Tenaga Nasional, our ministries and government agencies, as well as every single contributor to this journey, thank you for your vision, your commitment, and your belief in what Malaysia can achieve.
28. This is our moment. Let's seize it. Let's move forward, public and private, local and global, young and old, to power a Malaysia that is resilient, ambitious, and ready for a digital and green future.
29. The world is watching. Malaysia is ready.

Thank you.