

Opening Remarks

by

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Minister of Works

**At the Captains of Industry Round Table Discussion on Safety in
Construction**

**Theme : “A Perspective Towards Stakeholder’s Responsibility
and Safety Culture in Construction Industry”**

Conference Hall 1, Level 3, KLCC

29 March 2018

Fellow construction industry leaders and captains

Our distinguished guests and speakers from abroad

Ladies and gentlemen

Assalammualaikumwarahmatullalhiwabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera, Salam
Negeraku and a very good afternoon to all of you here today.

1. It is a great honour for me to be here with the leaders of the industry at the Captains of Industry Roundtable Discussion 2018, themed ‘A Perspective Towards Stakeholder’s Responsibility and Safety Culture in Construction Industry’.

2. Our roundtable discussion today serves as a follow-up to last year’s meeting on how we can work together to instill a culture of safety in our construction industry. It is vital for us to continuously engage in these dialogues and

discussions to ensure that we are on track towards achieving our goals for the industry, particularly when our focus revolves around improving the levels of safety. Before I proceed further, I wish to thank each and every one of you for joining us which display your seriousness and commitment. Most importantly, it is heartening to see the public and private sectors coming together to work collaboratively which makes our discussion and dialogue even more effective and meaningful.

3. My sincere appreciation to the speakers, Mr Nic Rigby of HSE UK and Tuan Haji Omar Mat Piah from the Department of Safety and Health (DOSHS) who will be sharing their expertise and key lessons learned on how we can improve the safety of the industry and help us achieve the aspirations of the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP).

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. Let me remind all of you that when it comes to safeguarding the lives and wellbeing of the construction workforce, we must all play our role as this is not the responsibility of one party or one organization but All of us.

5. While there are various CITP committees at the working level who are looking at the safety initiatives and KPIs, the roundtable discussion that we are going to embark is meant to provide a platform for us to engage in an open dialogue systematically. It is also a chance for me to personally feel the “pulse” of our safety efforts and converging all of us to work together to steer the industry on the right direction in achieving our safety targets.

6. On this note, let me recap the three key objectives of the roundtable discussion :

- First – we want to identify the areas of improvement and challenges faced by the industry in improving the levels of safety in the construction industry;

- Second – we want to gain the commitment from the captains of industry to make serious efforts in improving the safety levels at the construction sites; and
- Third – we want your feedback on how we can better prepare the industry for the mandatory implementation of the Construction Design Management (CDM).

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. As movers and shakers of the industry, we need to work together and find solutions to address the occupational safety and health issues that have been affecting the industry. In this aspect, I strongly agree with Tan Sri Tajuddin's recommendation to call for a mid-term review of the CITP's KPIs . This is because the CITP is not a plan set in stone but that is vibrant and dynamic that is reviewed continuously so that we can put us on the right trajectory and transform the industry.

8. I am confident our experts present in this roundtable discussion will provide us with fresh perspectives that will help us achieve our safety aspirations. We have to recognize the fact that there is a negative perception of the industry in terms of Safety which is confirmed in CIDB's Public Perception Survey that revealed health and safety concerns as one of the key challenges that are preventing young Malaysians from joining the construction workforce.

9. Since 2012, the construction industry's fatality rate per 100,000 workers from CIDB's report has been on a consistent growth trend that is undesirable. Hence, the question that we must ask ourselves is " have we forsaken the health and safety of our construction workforce to achieve cost effectiveness and faster construction speeds? " These are human lives that we are talking about and I cannot emphasize enough that every casualty or death is one too many.

10. As such, I strongly urge CIDB, to play a bigger role in improving and ensuring the health and safety of the industry. In the CIDB Act 520, it is clearly stated that one of the functions of CIDB is to enforce and regulate quality and safe construction works.

12. In fact, I urge CIDB to study how CDM can be incorporated as a regulation and enforced under Act 520 as it has been made mandatory in the United Kingdom and Singapore which has proven to be highly-beneficial in elevating the safety and health performance of the construction industry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. As you maybe aware, the Department of Occupational Safety and Health Malaysia (DOSH) introduced the Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry Management in 2017. The Guidelines which were developed based on CDM regulations, provides practical guidance for the construction industry stakeholders on risk management approaches and general principles of prevention. Essentially, through this Guideline, we are encouraging industry players to manage and mitigate risks, covering people and processes right from the design and planning stages to the construction process. It requires all parties involved to avoid risks where possible, evaluate risks that cannot be avoided and to put in place corrective measures to address them. It also encourages increased coordination and cooperation between all parties involved to ensure effective health and safety measures are incorporated.

14. While I am pleased that industry players such as Putrajaya Holdings, has implemented CDM and the Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health in the Construction Industry Management at their projects, I see greater room for buy-in and participation from the industry in this area. As such, I have requested for CIDB to continue their efforts with DOSH to accelerate the promotional and awareness

efforts to reach out to even more industry players.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. I wish to take this opportunity to highlight that it is not all doom and gloom when it comes to health and safety levels in the construction industry. While media reports often highlight accidents and mishaps, we have industry players who have excelled tremendously in achieving zero-down time due to injuries and fatalities.

16. For example, I would like to commend MRCB as an example where the KL Sports City project successfully recorded three-million man hours with no lost time due to injuries. It also received the Safety and Health Assessment System in Construction 5-star achievement award from CIDB.

17. In addition, I was also made to understand that the construction of the Rawang Bypass had zero fatality which I am sure there are other projects that were completed without casualty. We must celebrate and recognise players who have done well in this area and further motivating them and enculturate the construction industry in making health safety as a key priority.

Ladies and gentlemen,

18. I am eager to hear from all stakeholders in this Roundtable Discussion and assure you that your suggestions, inputs and ideas will be taken seriously and incorporated in our strategic plans and initiatives for the betterment of the construction industry.

19. Here, I wish to reiterate that the Ministry of Works and all of its agencies will continue to introduce and implement initiatives to improve the health and safety levels of the industry and remain committed in ensuring the construction industry transform itself into a modern, highly productive, sustainable and safe industry as

outlined in the CITP.

20. Finally, let us get down to business and start the Captains of Industry Roundtable Discussion rolling.

Thank you.