

Closing Remarks by

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**International Construction Transformation Conference
(ICTC)**

***“Achieving Peak Productivity Through Technology and
Innovation”***

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Plenary Hall, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre

Members of the media

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Assalammualaikumwbt, Salam Sejahtera, Salam Negaraku and a very good evening to all of you here today.

1. It is a pleasure to be here today to deliver the Closing Remarks for the **“International Construction Transformation Conference (ICTC) which is co-located with KUBINA or the Convention for Women in Construction,** where both events were organised together for the very first time in conjunction with the International Construction Week or ICW 2018.

2. Hosted by the Ministry of Works, Malaysia and co-organised by the Construction Industry Development Board, Malaysia (CIDB), the ICTC has certainly been a key component of this year's ICW. In fact, the conference has been instrumental in driving conversations and experience sharing in the areas of technology and innovation in construction, in line with its theme of ***“Achieving Peak Productivity through Technology and Innovation”***.
3. More importantly, I am happy to note that the ICTC, which was participated by international and local delegates over the last two days, has brought together an amazing line-up of prominent speakers and moderators from Malaysia and around the world. The speakers and moderators are not just leaders of their respective organisations, be it in the public or private sectors, but are also thought leaders of their respective fields.
4. To all the moderators and speakers, on behalf of the participants, let me say “Thank you”. Your openness to share has surely given participants the opportunity to exchange ideas and experience in key transformation areas for the construction industry such as productivity,

Industry 4.0 as well as best practices and success stories in construction projects.

5. The theme of this inaugural conference ***“Achieving Peak Productivity through Technology and Innovation”*** is indeed very timely as the entire world, including Malaysia, is embracing the next industrial and technology revolution. The new digital and borderless economic landscape makes it imperative for all of us, especially the construction industry, to boost our productivity by fully adopting the latest technology and innovation. After all, these are the essential elements for the construction industry to be productive and competitive in the international arena. It is also imperative that we stay ahead of the curve in innovation to remain relevant and thrive in the changing landscape of the construction industry.
6. Technology in the digital space has certainly changed the world today. From Artificial Intelligence or AI, the Internet of Things (IoT), big data analytics to augmented reality, these have all evolved at rapid speed and impacted many industries and businesses.

Ladies and gentlemen

7. It is time for the construction sector to re-think, re-invest and re-invent its solutions. There are lots of opportunities, particularly technologies include the need to adopt a more futuristic and long-term mind set to maximise the potential of Industry 4.0 as it will enable the industry to achieve higher productivity, ensure quality and guarantee safety at construction sites.

8. In fact, according to Software Connect's Construction Technology Trends 2018 report, it was highlighted that construction companies are looking to spend more on technology in 2018 as compared to 2017. Interestingly, Goldman Sachs has also forecasted that the construction industry will lead all other commercial industries in drone adoption, spending up to USD11 billion on the technology. This is perhaps no big surprise considering the advantage of drones in construction works and their potential to greatly improve productivity, cut down human labour and increase worker safety.

9. In addition, the same report by Goldman Sachs also asserted that cloud is king in construction, with construction software buyers more willing to consider cloud-hosted software, estimated to be at 5% more than all other industries. The use of advanced technologies is

also continuing to rise, with big increases expected over the next two years.

10. Ultimately, these initiatives are put in place to synergise human and machine as part of the overall aspiration to more than double the productivity of the industry which must be also matched by higher wages.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. The Malaysian Construction Industry can indeed lead the way in innovation. After all, Malaysian companies and industry leaders have long had the capability to lead the charge in construction innovation and productivity. In fact, both the public and private sectors have made headways in construction.
12. On a personal note, I am delighted that the agencies under my Ministry which are CIDB, the Board of Engineers Malaysia (BEM), the Board of Architects Malaysia (BAM) and the Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia (BQSM) have come together once again to co-organise KUBINA 2018. It is a pleasure to see KUBINA grow to what it is today since I mooted it back in 2014. It is also a recognition to all woman personnel in the construction

industry for their contribution towards this important sector of economy. I salute them for their commitment and dedication to further strengthen their present in this challenging yet exiting job scope.

13. KUBINA 2018 is definitely a good platform for us to discuss the role of women leaders in construction. Certainly, I believe that our women construction leaders have a significant role to play in spearheading the transformation and innovation of the Malaysian construction industry. Moreover, KUBINA 2018 is an excellent platform for us to exchange experiences, build professional networking and exploring business potential.

14. Ultimately, empowering women in the construction industry is an objective I hold close to my heart. In this regard, we have also set up the Wanita Industri Binaan Malaysia, or WIBM, in 2015 to facilitate the participation and success of women in the Malaysian construction industry. Some of WIBM's objectives include 'the promotion of the ability of professional women and non-professional women in construction industry; networking for women in construction industry; provide education and mentoring to younger women in the construction industry; promote change and breaking down barriers for women in

the construction industry; as well as upskilling and safety certification for women.

15. Meanwhile, to recognise the leading women in construction, I had also mooted the idea of awarding the Construction Leading Lady Award in Malaysia Construction Industry Excellence Award (MCIEA). In this regard, I am pleased to know that this award has since been a permanent highlighted features in this annual awards presentation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. As many of you here are aware, the construction industry is synonym with the 3Ds – Difficult, Danger and Dirty. However, times are changing and women are becoming more active and involved in the construction industry. Women are bringing fresh perspectives and be the catalyst for transformation.
17. I am pleased to inform that the number of women engineers registered with the Board of Engineers Malaysia was only 8% of the total registered in year 2000. However, by February 2018, the number has mushroomed from 2,276 to 29,220 representing 32% of the total number

of registered engineers. In another word, one in three Malaysian engineers are women.

18. I am pleased to announce that the register of Board of Quantity Surveyors Malaysia recorded 2,601 lady quantity surveyors in 2018 as compared to 1,083 in 2013. The increase of more than 100% Professional QS and Consultant QS is indeed a healthy sign that women in quantity surveying profession is ready to gear the wheels of the construction industry.

19. I am happy to acknowledge the Board of Architects Malaysia overall progress since year 2013 until 2018 as there is to gradually increase in the number of total registration for women in line with the government's efforts under Tahun Memperkasa Wanita 2018 (TMW18) for woman to spearhead the development with target for woman's participation by 30%. Based on the Board's record of woman's registration as Architects, Graduate Architects and Interior Designer, in total are 1062 (25%) members, with 3% increase to 1281 (28.1%) members respectively. I am pleased to inform that for Architectural Consultancy Practice (ACP) owned by women leaders are recorded as 183 firms which is 16% from the total registered of sole proprietorship.

20. Of course, it is heartening to note that women are stepping up the game as well. There is growing involvement in all sectors of the construction industry be it consultancy, management, operation and research. We have many women in top positions such as Dato' Ir. Hashimah Hashim, Executive Director, KLCC Projek, Datuk Ir. Rosaline Ganendra, Executive Director, Minconsult and CIDB Board Member, to name a few.

My fellow industry players,

21. Let me also share an inspiring story with you. There is a recent news report which highlighted how an entrepreneurial young woman in Kerian has now become the director of a company in the field of construction and interior design. This young woman, by the name of Nur Farah Hana Rosden is only 26 years old! She is certainly a testimony of the Government's drive to invest in our local talents. In fact, Nur Farah was the only female student back in 2011 to pursue a course in construction electrical wiring at the Akademi Binaan Malaysia centre in Sintok, Kedah. *Syabas* to Nur Farah!

22. Certainly, I am encouraged by all these developments and I will take this as a personal challenge as well as an

inspiration to work even harder to empower more women to succeed in the construction industry. Aspired by the rose in Empowerment Women Year 2018 under the Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development, I once again would like to push the idea to promote and embrace the challenges of being a successful professional while maintaining being a great mother, family member and of course being a woman.

23. Before I conclude, let me once again thank the organisers of ICTC and ICW 2018 for inviting me to share a moment of thought with all distinguished speakers and participants. I am truly honoured to be a part of this fantastic event for the construction industry. We are entering a very exciting phase of development for the construction industry and I sincerely hope we will be able to seize the day and accelerate the growth of this industry to the next level.

24. With that, I officially close the International Construction Transformation Conference 2018. Thank you and I wish all of you a fruitful day ahead. Wabillahitaufikwalhidayahwassalamualaikumwarahmatulla hiwabarakatuh.
