

**Teks Ucapan**  
**YB Dato' Sri Fadillah bin Haji Yusof**  
**Menteri Kerja Raya sempena**  
**Roundtable Discussion with Captains of Industry**  
**In Conjunction with ICW 2017**

Distinguished Speakers and Guests,

Industry Partners, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Let me begin by expressing my pleasure in being able to join you today at the “Captains of Industry Roundtable Discussion on Instilling the Safety Culture in the Construction Industry in Malaysia”. I am happy to note that members representing important organizations in the industry are willing to make time to attend this round table discussion on safety. My sincere thanks to all of you for coming in this timely effort to bring the construction sector community together to improve the level of safety as well as trying to resolve some of the issues pertaining to safety and health in the industry.
2. I must congratulate CIDB for organising today’s event to bring all the stakeholders together to discuss on how we can make the construction site safer for our workers and the public.
3. This roundtable session is organised with these three objectives in mind:
  - I. To gain captains’ of the industry’s commitments on drastic improvements on safety at construction sites.
  - II. To get views and feedback on how to improve the level of safety at construction sites.
  - III. To get industry feedback on the preparation towards the mandatory implementation of construction design management (cdm) which is based on the guidelines on the occupational safety and health of the construction industry management which was launched on february 28, 2017 by the Department of Safety and Health ( DOSH).

## **Safety Performance in the Construction Sector**

4. The number of fatality recorded in 2015 was 140. In 2016, the cases of fatality at construction sites has yet to be released by The Ministry Of Human Resource. Needless to say we are all concerned with the loss of lives at worksites.
5. I cannot emphasise enough that every death is one too many. Every worker is someone's parent, child or co-worker and their death brings much grief and pain for their loved ones. This situation cannot continue and a concerted and urgent action must be taken to improve workplace safety in the construction sector.

## **Enforcement Measures**

6. Although the safety and health area falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resource, the Ministry of Works being the ministry responsible for implementing the most number of construction projects in the country is also conscious of its duty in ensuring the safety and health of our construction workers. On our part, CIDB is the agency responsible for the enforcement at construction sites. For the year 2016 enforcement operations conducted by CIDB at construction sites stood at 3,315.
7. Out of the 3,315 construction sites inspected, a total of 117 stop work order and 196 compounds were issued. On top of this, 19 construction companies were brought to court for violating CIDB Act 520.
8. Let me assure you that we take no pleasure in issuing stop work orders, compounds as well as bringing construction companies to court. However, when it comes to adhere to the laws as well as compliance to workplace safety and health, we must make sure we do not compromise the safety of our workforce. As such we have a heavy responsibility in ensuring the safety and health of our workers.

## **Stepping Up Safety Awareness**

9. The Ministry of Works through CIDB will step up outreach and publicity efforts to raise safety awareness amongst the construction industry players. I am glad to know that two prominent agencies responsible for safety and health at construction sites, CIDB and DOSH are now working closely in improving the safety and health levels of the construction industry. They are now working on several programmes to raise the safety awareness as well trying to improve the level of safety and health at sites. I must congratulate both agencies for their effort on these.
  
10. I am pleased to see representatives from employers who are well represented in this roundtable discussion. Once again I want to remind Employers that you have a vital role in ensuring a safe workplace for the workers, while workers need to play their role in preventing injuries by exercising care and taking necessary precautions.

## **Learning from Others**

11. In addition to immediate measures which need to be put in place to reduce safety and health risks at site, we need to have long term structural changes to improve the construction safety and health standards in Malaysia. In view of this, I have requested CIDB to organize a visit to UK to study their safety and health practices of which I have been informed that they are arranging for a visit to one of the key organizations in UK, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE). In our midst is a representative from HSE UK, Mr. Nic Rigby who is here with us to share his knowledge and experiences on safety and health. My sincere appreciation to Mr. Nic Rigby for making efforts to be with us and I look forward to meeting him again in UK.
  
12. I believe that a country such as UK has a lot to offer on safety and health matters. The UK has developed a strong preventive culture enabled by regulations that focus on upstream controls and supported by a well-trained workforce. For example, they have implemented

their construction design and management regulations since 1994 and supported by industry-developed compliance guidelines.

13. This has changed the way their construction industry operate and has successfully reduced accident and fatality rates significantly. On top of this, the UK has instilled a strong culture of prevention and implemented a rigorous training framework for their workers resulting in a highly skilled and competent workforce. We can draw from the UK experiences to strengthen industry ownership and improve safety and health standards in the construction industry.
14. We are also honoured to have representatives from our neighbouring country Singapore to be with us to share their experiences on safety. On this note I would like to thank Engineer MohdIsmadi from the Ministry of Manpower Singapore for enlightening us on the implementation of design for safety in Singapore during your presentation in the safety conference yesterday. I am also looking forward to the presentation by Mr Adrian Lee from Lendlease Asia on their experience in instilling safety culture based on their projects in Singapore.

### **Implementation Of Guidelines On Occupational Safety And Health In Construction Industry Management 2017**

15. I am confident that one of the initiatives that will help to significantly improve the level of safety and health at construction sites is the implementation of the Guidelines on Occupational Safety And Health In Construction Industry Management 2017 which has been developed by DOSH. I was made to understand that the guidelines was developed based on the UK's construction design management (CDM) regulations which uses the principle of "prevention through design". The CDM which has been made mandatory in countries like United kingdom and Singapore has proven to improve the overall safety and health performance in the construction industry.

16. I also look forward to En. Shabuddin Ahmad of Putrajaya Holdings presentation on their experiences in implementing construction design management or CDM in their projects and being the pioneer of CDM in Malaysia.
17. The Guidelines On Occupational Safety And Health In Construction Industry Management 2017 was launched by the Minister of Human Resources Dato' Sri Richard Riot Anak Jaem on 28 February 2017. In a nutshell, the guidelines will help to identify and manage risks from design and planning stage of a building project through the construction and maintenance phases. The guidelines places responsibilities on all project stakeholders such as developers, designers, contractors and owners in order to eliminate and reduce risks at construction sites.
18. Apart from improving safety and health at construction sites, the Occupational Safety and Health in Construction Industry Management)2017 introduced by DOSH will be complemented by CIDB's push for a higher degree of mechanization in the construction sector through IBS. With more construction work done in a controlled environment that is highly automated, it will reduce the need for low skilled workers and significantly improve construction site safety.
19. The Ministry of Works and all its agencies stand in full support of the Ministry of Human Resource and DOSH in implementing the Guidelines on Occupational Safety and Health in Construction Industry Management 2017 . CIDB will continue to work closely with DOSH to strengthen promotion efforts in creating awareness of the implementation of these guidelines.

### **Conclusion**

20. **The Ministry of Works efforts to help the construction sector in improving the safety and health standards will have limited effect without the conscious and collective efforts of everyone in the industry.** I trust CIDB together with DOSH have

done well in rallying industry players by conducting nationwide safety roadshows, developing training for workers and promoting safety and health to contractors. I urge CIDB and DOSH to remain steadfast in your commitments and work with all stakeholders in raising the safety and health standards in the construction industry.

21. As for industry players, you will need to have a mindset shift that all injuries and ill health from work are preventable and that that zero harm is possible. With this mindset shift in focusing on finding solutions to prevent injuries and ill health, we can make work easier, smarter and safer for us and our workers.
  
22. With that, I now open this “Captains of Industry Roundtable Discussion on Instilling the Safety Culture in the Construction Industry in Malaysia” for all of us to discuss and deliberate. May I wish all of you a fruitful and enriching session today.

THANK YOU.