



OPENING REMARKS

BY

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**OPENING & LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF
INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK
(ICW) BORNEO 2026**

Theme: "BEYOND LIMITS"

Tuesday, 12 May 2026 | Sheraton Kota Kinabalu

[Salutations – TO BE PROVIDED ON EVENT DAY]

Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI, and a very warm welcome to all.

[Opening]

1. First and foremost, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Masidi bin Manjun, Deputy Chief Minister II of Sabah, for gracing this occasion on behalf of Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Haji Noor, Chief Minister of Sabah.
2. Your presence today reflects the Sabah Government's strong commitment to advancing the construction industry and developing local talent through strategic investments in infrastructure and skills development.
3. It is a great pleasure to be here in Kota Kinabalu for the Opening and Launching Ceremony of International Construction Week (ICW) Borneo 2026.

4. Since its inception in 1998, ICW has served as Malaysia's premier platform for the construction and built environment industry. Following the successful inaugural edition in Kuching last year, we are proud to bring ICW Borneo to Sabah this year under the theme, "Beyond Limits."
5. This expansion beyond Kuala Lumpur reflects our commitment to ensuring that industry players in East Malaysia have direct access to national and international expertise, emerging technologies, and new business opportunities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

6. The construction sector remains a key driver of Malaysia's development. Here in Sabah, the opportunities are especially significant, supported by the State's vast potential in infrastructure, sustainable development, and regional connectivity.
7. That is why the Government, through the Ministry of Works and CIDB Malaysia, has made substantial investments to strengthen Sabah's construction ecosystem.

8. As you have seen from the video shown just now, the Ministry of Works Malaysia, have established Makmal Kerja Raya Malaysia (MKRM) Sabah since 2022. This year, with an investment of approximately RM19.4 million, we reopen its doors with fully upgraded the facilities to run more than ten types critical testing for building materials. The lab provides advanced testing, inspection, and technical support services that ensure the safety, quality, and compliance of construction materials and structures.

9. With the establishment and expansion of MKRM Sabah, we are able to improve the accessibility to local testing and certification services to the construction sector supply chain in Sabah. By having a comprehensive and accredited testing facility locally, the industry here no longer has to send their samples to Kuala Lumpur or other countries for testing. This is our contribution towards accelerating project timelines in Sabah through ease-of-doing business.

10. Equally important is the adoption of digital technologies such as Building Information Modelling, or BIM, to improve productivity, project coordination and delivery. To enhance BIM adoption in Sabah, we have invested RM2.25 million to establish BIM training facilities in Kota Kinabalu. These

facilities are helping local industry players build the capability and competency in using BIM.

11. In fact, I am happy to inform that tomorrow, the second day of ICW Borneo, CIDB is organising a dedicated programme titled, “BIM Beyond Design: Towards Digital Construction in Borneo,” to raise awareness and enhance capability, towards having more certified BIM practitioners in Sabah.
12. Apart from having materials testing and BIM training facilities, we believe in building the industry capacity and capability over the long term by training the construction workforce.
13. Towards this end, we had witnessed another important milestone with the ground-breaking ceremony for the new Akademi Binaan Malaysia, or ABM Sabah campus in Beringgis, Papar, officiated by Yang Amat Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima Haji Hajiji bin Haji Noor, Chief Minister of Sabah.
14. With an investment of RM130.6 million, this will be the most modern ABM campus in Malaysia. Built on a 34-acre eco-campus site, it will accommodate up to 700 trainees at any one time and significantly expand opportunities for Sabah

youth to pursue high-skilled careers in construction and related industries. Since 2001, ABM Sabah has trained more than 195,000 Sabahans, creating pathways to meaningful employment both in Malaysia and abroad.

15. On Thursday, the third day of ICW Borneo, we will have a graduation ceremony to celebrate about 150 youths who have completed their training at the Akademi Binaan Malaysia (ABM) Sabah and CIDB Technologies, both the training arm of CIDB Malaysia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. Altogether, the initiatives I mentioned represent investments of more than RM150 million and underscore our unwavering commitment to strengthening Sabah's construction industry through digitalisation, technical excellence, and human capital development.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. The strong participation in ICW Borneo 2026 that we see here today, is itself a powerful vote of confidence in Sabah's future.

18. Through the BuildXpo showcase, we can see technologies and solutions from companies from Europe, China, Kuala Lumpur, Sarawak, and Sabah. Their presence here reflects the growing recognition that Sabah offers tremendous opportunities for infrastructure development, sustainable construction, and industrial growth.

19. ICW Borneo demonstrates what can be achieved when government, industry leaders, technology providers, and practitioners come together on one platform to exchange ideas, forge partnerships, and develop practical solutions.

20. To see the future potential of events such as this, let me share some achievements of the main ICW event held in KL in 2025. In 2025, as you know, Malaysia was the Chairman of ASEAN, as such we made the ICW and BuildXpo 2025 as a platform to forge strong collaborations with ASEAN and international partners. We signed 7 MoUs with companies from Malaysia, Cambodia, Singapore, China and South Korea. We hosted foreign buyers from 11 countries who are looking for products and services, through the International Sourcing Programme with MATRADE. All-in-all 89 business meetings were held, and a total sales projection of RM1.4 billion was achieved throughout the 3-day event!

21. I believe this is a model with significant potential for further expansion, here in Sabah. With the strong support of the Sabah Government and the private sector, such platform can continue to strengthen the State's construction ecosystem and position Sabah as a leading hub for innovation, skills development, and sustainable infrastructure in the region.

Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Panglima, ladies and gentlemen,

22. As we gather over the next three days, I encourage all participants to take full advantage of the opportunities to learn, connect, and collaborate.

23. Let us work together to build a construction industry that is more productive, innovative, and sustainable—and one that creates lasting benefits for the people of Sabah and Malaysia as a whole.

24. It is my privilege and honour to welcome all of you to ICW Borneo 2026 and wish you a fruitful and productive event.

Terima kasih. Thank you.

Yang Berhormat Dato Sri Alexander Nanta Linggi,
Minister of Works, Malaysia