



OPENING SPEECH

YAB DATUK SERI PANGLIMA HAJI HAJIJI BIN

HAJI NOOR

CHIEF MINISTER OF SABAH

**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]

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, and a very good morning.

[Introduction]

1. It is my honour and great pleasure to stand before you today to officially open the International Construction Week (ICW) Borneo 2026 here in Kota Kinabalu.
2. ICW Borneo has quickly established itself as an important platform for East Malaysia. Its return, following the successful inaugural edition in Sarawak, reflects the growing significance of this region in shaping Malaysia's construction future.
3. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to THE Ministry of Works, Malaysia, CIDB Malaysia and Qube Integrated Malaysia for bringing this prestigious event to Sabah.
4. To all delegates and participants – Selamat Datang ke Sabah. We are delighted to welcome you, and I hope your time here will give you a deeper understanding of Sabah's potential, as well as its readiness for growth.

[Sabah's Growth Momentum]

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Sabah today stands at an important turning point.
6. For many years, we have been known for our natural beauty. At times, we are also defined by our development challenges. But narrative is changing – and it is changing with intention.
7. Through the Sabah Maju Jaya 2.0 Roadmap (2026-2030), we are entering a new phase of growth – one that focuses on strengthening our economic resilience, improving productivity, and creating long-term value for our people.
8. For 2026, the State Government has allocated RM12.02 billion – the largest development allocation in Sabah's history – to implement over 1,100 programmes and projects.
9. This is not just about spending. It is about delivery, impact, and ensuring that development reaches communities across Sabah.

[The Construction Landscape]

10. The construction sector will play a central role in this transformation.
11. Across Sabah, we are seeing strong momentum in infrastructure development – from roads and healthcare facilities to utilities and digital connectivity.
12. The Pan Borneo Highway, in particular, represents a major step forward. It is not only about connectivity, but about unlocking economic opportunities and improving access across the state.
13. At the same time, urban centres such as Kota Kinabalu, Sandakan, and Tawau are evolving – reflecting a more modern and dynamic Sabah.
14. However, we are also mindful of past implementation challenges.
15. Moving forward, our priority is clear: to strengthen execution, improve coordination, and ensure that projects are delivered efficiently, transparently, and with lasting value.

[Sabah's Priorities: A Clear Direction]

16. Over the next five years, Sabah's development agenda will focus on a few clear priorities.
17. First, strengthening connectivity – through transport networks, logistics systems, and port development to support trade and economic expansion.
18. Second, ensuring that development is sustainable and resilient – so that growth today does not come at the expense of future generations.
19. Third, expanding access to affordable housing – so that development translates into tangible improvements in the lives of Sabahans.
20. And equally important, we are committed to raising standards across the industry – through better governance, stronger capabilities, and greater accountability.

[ICW Borneo: Why It Matters to Sabah]

Ladies and gentlemen,

21. The theme “Beyond Limits” is particularly meaningful for Sabah.
22. Geography has often been seen as a challenge. But for us, it is also a driver of innovation – pushing us to find solutions that are practical, resilient, and suited to our unique environment.
23. ICW Borneo provides an important platform to bring together ideas, expertise, and partnerships that can translate into real outcomes.
24. More importantly, it allows Sabah to engage directly with industry leaders, investors, and professionals who can be part of our growth journey.

[A Call for Partnership]

25. To the industry leaders and professionals present today – Sabah welcomes your partnership.
26. We are looking for partners who build with purpose, who deliver with integrity, and who are committed to quality.

27. There are real opportunities here – in infrastructure, urban development, and sustainable growth.
28. The development of Sabah is not the responsibility of government alone. It is a shared journey – one that requires collaboration between the public and private sectors.
29. Together, we can accelerate progress and ensure more balanced development across Malaysia.

[Closing]

30. As I conclude, let me reaffirm this:
31. Sabah is open for business, ready for investment, and committed to progress.
32. We are no longer defined by our challenges – but by our direction, our ambition, and our actions.
33. With that, it is my honour and privilege to declare the International Construction Week Borneo 2026 officially open.

Terima kasih. Thank you.

Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah, Wassalamualaikum

Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.