SPEECH BY

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AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK (ICW) & BUILDXPO MALAYSIA 2026

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Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and Salam Malaysia MADANI.

Salutations to be finalised according to the confirmed attendance.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen.

1. It is a pleasure to be here today at ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia 2026, an important platform that brings together the people, ideas and technologies shaping the future of our construction industry.

2. The theme, *Beyond Limits*, is particularly relevant at a time when the construction industry must rethink not only how we build, but also how we create greater value for our economy and our people.

3. Construction has always been an important driver of national development. It provides the infrastructure that connects our communities, the homes in which our families live, and the facilities that support our education, healthcare and economic activities.

4. But the demands of the future are changing.

5. We can no longer depend solely on conventional construction methods to meet the growing needs of the country. Rising expectations

on quality, productivity, affordability and sustainability require us to embrace new technologies and more efficient ways of working.

6. We must move towards a construction industry that is more productive, technology-driven, resilient and competitive.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. This is why the launch of the Malaysia Modular Construction Roadmap 2026–2030 during the ICW and BuildXpo Opening Ceremony is both timely and significant.

8. The Roadmap provides a strategic direction for accelerating the adoption of modular construction and strengthening Malaysia's industrialised construction capabilities.

9. Modular construction offers an opportunity to transform the way we build. By integrating design, engineering, manufacturing, logistics and on-site assembly, construction activities can be better coordinated and carried out with greater efficiency.

10. Components and modules can be manufactured in factories or controlled environments while site preparation takes place concurrently. This approach has the potential to shorten construction periods, improve

consistency in quality, reduce material wastage and optimise the use of resources.

11. More importantly, it represents a shift in mindset: from treating construction primarily as an activity conducted at the project site towards a more integrated, industrialised and technology-enabled process.

12. This transformation must not remain confined to isolated projects or demonstrations. We must create the conditions for modular construction to become a mainstream and commercially viable part of Malaysia's construction ecosystem.

13. The Roadmap therefore needs to be supported by stronger domestic manufacturing capabilities, wider adoption of Design for Manufacture and Assembly, investment, market demand, skilled talent, and an enabling policy and regulatory environment.

14. Our ambition must be to develop an ecosystem in which Malaysian companies are not merely users of modular technology, but active participants in its development, production and commercialisation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. The transformation of our construction industry must ultimately translate into tangible benefits for the rakyat.

16. One important area is affordable housing.

17. Under the Thirteenth Malaysia Plan, the Government has set a target of delivering 500,000 affordable homes by 2030, as part of the wider national aspiration of one million homes over the 2026–2035 period.

18. Meeting these aspirations requires us to continuously improve the way homes are planned, designed and delivered.

19. Technology must help us deliver homes more efficiently, without compromising safety, quality and liveability.

20. In this regard, I am encouraged by the strategic collaboration between CIDB and private sector to advance modular construction in Malaysia.

21. Through this collaboration, both parties will explore the application of three-dimensional modular units using Design for Manufacture and Assembly, alongside off-site manufacturing, automation, Building Information Modelling and sustainable design.

22. The partnership also provides opportunities for technology transfer, local industry development, skills training and stronger engagement with developers, contractors and other industry stakeholders.

23. The objective is to establish a practical pathway for assessing how modular construction can contribute to the delivery of quality and affordable housing.

24. The development of a joint showcase at BuildXpo, together with the proposed demonstration activities will also provide opportunities for the industry to experience and better understand these technologies.

25. This is the kind of industry collaboration we need: partnerships that move beyond discussion and create opportunities for learning, testing, developing local capabilities and expanding market adoption.

Ladies and gentlemen,

26. While modular construction is an important part of our industrial transformation, we must also look at the wider opportunities presented by emerging construction technologies.

27. I am also pleased to note the effort of CIDB to explore Three-Dimensional Concrete Printing, or 3DCP, technology.

28. This initiative is particularly important because it demonstrates how Malaysia can move beyond technology adoption towards developing its own technological capabilities.

29. Under these initiatives CIDB will work towards building 3D concrete printers in Malaysia and developing local expertise through technology transfer, knowledge-sharing and workforce training.

30. CIDB will also explore research and pilot applications, technical performance assessments, and the development of standards to support the safe and appropriate adoption of this technology.

31. The intention is to establish a foundation for Malaysian capabilities in 3D concrete printing, including the development of local expertise and manufacturing capacity.

32. What is important here is the direction we are taking. We want Malaysia to be a country that does not simply import and consume technology. We must develop the knowledge, talent and industrial capacity to adapt, manufacture and eventually export technologies that we have mastered.

33. This is how we create higher-value opportunities for Malaysian companies and skilled employment for our people. It is also how we strengthen our position in the regional and global construction industry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

34. These collaborations reflect an important principle: Government, industry and technology partners must work together to turn innovation into practical outcomes. However, we must remain disciplined in how we advance these technologies.

35. New construction methods must be supported by proper testing, technical validation, safety requirements and appropriate standards. Their actual costs, productivity gains and long-term performance must be established through real projects and evidence. Innovation must go hand in hand with responsibility.

36. We must also ensure that our local contractors, particularly small and medium-sized enterprises, are not left behind in this transformation. They must have access to the knowledge, training, technology and business opportunities needed to participate in the new construction ecosystem.

37. At the same time, we must invest in our people. The construction workforce of the future will require new competencies in digital design, automation, advanced manufacturing, robotics and technology-enabled construction processes.

38. Our universities, training institutions, industry players and government agencies must work together to prepare our workforce for these changing demands.

39. Ultimately, the success of this transformation should not be measured only by the number of technologies introduced or projects completed. It must also be measured by the capabilities we develop, the opportunities we create for local businesses, the quality of homes and infrastructure we deliver, and the value we contribute to the Malaysian economy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

40. Malaysia has the opportunity to position itself as a regional leader in modern construction. But this will require more than adopting new technologies. It calls for a change in mindset, stronger collaboration, sustained investment and the confidence to move beyond conventional approaches.

41. The Modular Construction Roadmap 2026–2030 provides us with an important framework for this journey.

42. Let us build an industry that is not only capable of delivering more, but capable of delivering better.

43. An industry that creates opportunities for Malaysian companies, develops the skills of Malaysian workers, strengthens our domestic capabilities and competes confidently in international markets.

44. And above all, an industry that contributes meaningfully to the well-being and prosperity of our people.

45. I hereby declare **ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia 2026** officially open. And also, it is my pleasure to officially launch **Malaysia Modular Construction Roadmap 2026–2030**.

46. May this event inspire new ideas, forge meaningful partnerships and accelerate the transformation of Malaysia's construction industry.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufik walhidayah.

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.