LAUNCHING SPEECH

BY

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AT

MALAYSIA REGION LAUNCH
APPRECIATION DINNER

26 SEPTEMBER 2024 (THURSDAY) | 8.30 PM
INTERCONTINENTAL HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR

*Assalamualaikum   warahmatullahi   wabarakatuh   dan
Salam Sejahtera.*

[SALUTATIONS]

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good evening and *Salam Malaysia MADANI,*

1. The landscape we face today has evolved significantly from the
    past. The world has become more interconnected.

2. With the rapid growth of cloud computing and digital services,
    the expanded foothold of AWS through the launch of the AWS
    Infrastructure Region in Malaysia sends a clear signal to
    businesses globally that Malaysia is fast becoming the premier
    regional destination for digital investments.

Malaysia's Commitment to Digital Transformation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Digital economy is key towards elevating Malaysia's industrial economic complexity. We aim to position Malaysia as the generative artificial intelligence (AI) hub regionally and globally by strengthening our digital infrastructure.

4. Our policies on attracting the right digital investments are clear. Policy initiatives such as the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint, are aimed at transforming Malaysia into a high-income country and regional leader premised on digitalisation.

5. AWS has been a steadfast partner in our digital transformation journey. The launch of the AWS Region, with its 15-year investment plan, underscores AWS's unwavering long-term commitment to Malaysia.

6. AWS's RM29.2 billion investment through the AWS (Malaysia) Region project alone is projected to contribute RM57.3 billion to Malaysia's GDP between 2024 and 2038.

7. AWS's investment in Malaysia is anticipated to generate over 3,500 jobs directly from new data centres.

Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2025

8. As Malaysia prepares to assume the chairmanship of ASEAN in 2025, advancing regional digital integration is a top priority. Malaysia's leadership will drive collaboration among ASEAN nations to harmonise digital policies, standardise regulations, and improve cross-border data flows, positioning ASEAN as a unified digital economy.

9. Malaysia's chairmanship will focus on strengthening cybersecurity frameworks, enhancing regional cooperation on digital threats, and ensuring the growth of ASEAN's digital economy remains robust.

10. On this note, I am also happy to share that Malaysia has gazetted the Cyber Security Act 2024 this year. This is a significant milestone in strengthening Malaysia's cyber defence, protecting our data and enhancing the nation's resilience against cyber threats.

Promoting Innovation, Sustainability and Economic Advancement

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. The MADANI Government is taking significant steps to ensure sustainable data centre operations with guidelines on usage of energy and water, as well as to manage the carbon emission by data centres.

12. Malaysia is addressing concerns on data centres by integrating renewable energy sources and advanced energy management strategies. One of our key initiatives is the Corporate Renewable Energy Supply Scheme (CRESS), which will enable corporate companies to access green electricity through an open grid system. This will allow third-party renewable energy generators to supply power via the national grid.

Empowering the Workforce and Enhancing Digital Capabilities

13. The Government also encourages collaboration between data centre players with local businesses including SMEs, universities and research institutions through the Vendor Development Programme to drive innovation.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. Tonight, we celebrate both the launch of the AWS Region in Malaysia and the unveiling of AWS' Economic Impact Study. I wish to congratulate AWS for your dedication in realising the Impact Study to demonstrate the benefits investments bring to the economy and society.

Thank you.