

WELCOMING REMARKS

**YB SENATOR TENGKU DATUK SERI
UTAMA ZAFRUL BIN TENGKU ABDUL
AZIZ**

**MINISTER OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE
AND INDUSTRY**

VISIT TO MIDA

MIDA SENTRAL, KUALA LUMPUR

8 DECEMBER 2022

YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Dr. Sulaiman
Mahbob,
Chairman of MIDA

YBhg. Datuk Lokman Hakim Ali
Secretary General of MITI

Datuk Wira Arham Abdul Rahman
Chief Executive Officer of MIDA

YBhg. Datuk Bahria Mohd Tamil
Deputy Secretary General (Investment)
MITI

Mr. S. Sivasuriyamoorthy
Deputy CEO, Investment Promotion and
Facilitation, MIDA

Mr. Sikh Shamsul Ibrahim
Senior Executive Director, Investment Policy
Advocacy, MIDA

Management of MIDA,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera and Good Morning,

1. First and foremost, I am grateful to the Malaysian Investment Development Authority, or MIDA, for hosting me today and allowing me to revisit your esteemed organisation. As you are aware, I served on the MIDA Board of Directors for six years. Therefore, I am rather familiar with this organization.

2. This visit is part of my familiarisation tour to MITI agencies to gain a better understanding of each organisation's roles and functions while also strengthening existing working relationships. This is critical to meet the country's aspirations and MITI's role in achieving the nation's investment goals.

3. As Minister of International Trade and Industry, I have identified **three primary priorities**:

- a. ensuring that investment and trade continue to drive economic growth;
- b. restoring investor confidence and increasing FDI; and
- c. ensuring that Malaysian SMEs benefit from various bilateral and multilateral trade agreements.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. For more than 50 years, MIDA has worked tirelessly to establish Malaysia

as an attractive investment destination, and it is the primary driver of Malaysia's economic growth and development. MIDA's success and work is about putting Malaysia and ASEAN on the map and creating milestones with significant social and economic impact.

5. We must restore investor confidence and increase both FDI and DDI, which have been crucial to our economy.
6. It is also critical that all trade agreements, both bilateral and multilateral, be carefully evaluated to determine their effectiveness in benefitting Malaysia's supply chain, with

a particular focus on small and medium-sized companies (SMEs).

7. In this regard, I'm pleased to share that our YAB Prime Minister is very supportive of the CPTPP which we ratified. We will be tabling this to Cabinet members so that everyone is familiar with the Agreement and its importance to our country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. A business-friendly regulatory environment is important for facilitating business conduct, maintaining industry competitiveness and longevity, and

promoting growth during this pivotal moment in global history.

9. Therefore, I would like to congratulate MIDA on its achievements, particularly the RM48.2 billion in Net FDI recorded in 2021, as well as the impressive RM54 billion for the first nine months of this year.
10. MIDA has also approved RM309.4 billion in investments for 2021, as well as RM123.3 billion for the first half of this year. I understand that we are expected to recover to the pre-pandemic level of RM200 billion. All these comprised of both DDI and FDI.

11. I have also followed closely on recent developments by MIDA. For example, the efforts put in to strengthen our position in global E&E supply chain, with the signing of the Memorandum of Cooperation between Malaysia and the US last May on Semiconductor Supply Chain Resilience. This is critical because Malaysia's E&E sector is expected to contribute RM120 billion to the country's GDP and generate RM495 billion in export earnings by 2025.
12. I also welcome MIDA's intention to use Government grants to encourage the adoption of enterprise resource planning solutions among SMEs. This will assist them in digitalizing and managing their

business processes for maximum efficiency.

13. This includes the recently signed MoU between MIDA and the Collaborative Research in Engineering and Science and Technology Centre (Crest) with Dassault Systèmes to drive Industry 4.0 readiness among Malaysian SMEs.
14. Given the good track record, we should strive and work harder to maintain such achievements in the coming years. This is especially since next year, or 2023, the global environment is expected to be more difficult due to on-going geopolitical tensions, which has caused many investors to hold their

investments, or changing their investment destination away from more vulnerable countries. For Malaysia, we should work as hard as possible in capturing this opportunity.

Ladies and gentlemen,

15. Before I end, I'd like to express my heartfelt appreciation to all MIDA officers who have contributed to Malaysia's success story. Your sharp insight, as well as your steadfast and unwavering commitment to serving our partners and all stakeholders, have contributed to our economic growth.

16. MIDA's experience and insight are valuable. Therefore, I believe that our combined efforts will be able to effectively support economic growth and create more opportunities for businesses and individuals alike.

17. Moving forward, quick and decisive action is required. I believe MITI and its agencies are ready to take the lead, and I'm confident that success is within our reach if we remain focused and committed to our objectives. I look forward to work with everyone here, thank you.