



**MINISTRY OF
INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

SPEECH BY

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MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE, AND INDUSTRY

FOR

**GOOGLE'S MANTAP MALAYSIA BERSAMA AI
GRAND BALLROOM, LEVEL 3,
ST. REGIS KUALA LUMPUR**

10:00AM - 10:15AM | 1 OCTOBER 2024 (TUESDAY)

[SALUTATIONS]

Assalamualaikum w.b.t, a very good morning, and Salam Malaysia Madani.

1. It is an honour to be here today at *Mantap Malaysia Bersama AI*, a critical milestone in Malaysia's digital leadership journey. This groundbreaking of Google's first data centre and cloud region in Elmina, Selangor is a strategic partnership that will transform Malaysia's digital and industrial landscape for decades to come.
2. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to **Ms. Ruth Porat, President and Chief Investment Officer of Alphabet and Google**, for her leadership in facilitating this collaboration between Malaysia and Google.
3. This project is a **testament to the continuous support and vision of YAB Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, our Prime Minister**, who has personally engaged with Ms. Porat on numerous occasions to ensure the success of this initiative. After every meeting, virtual and physical, he will make sure we deliver.

4. I would also like to **thank YB Gobind Singh Deo, as well as various ministries and agencies for the close cooperation with MITI and myself throughout this journey.** Together, we have elevated Malaysia's position as a regional hub for AI, cloud computing, and advanced digital infrastructure.

DATA CENTRES: TRANSFORMING MALAYSIA'S DIGITAL FUTURE AND INDUSTRIAL LANDSCAPE

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Google's data centre is clearly in alignment with Malaysia's **New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030)**, our blueprint for a transformed industrial ecosystem that leverages cutting-edge technologies to drive sustainable and resilient economic growth.
6. Google's investment of **USD2 billion** in its data centre and cloud region is expected to bring **USD3.2 billion in GDP growth** and create **26,000 new high-skilled jobs** over the next five years. These represent real opportunities for Malaysians to participate in and benefit from the digital economy.

7. The importance of data centres in driving Malaysia's digital transformation cannot be overstated. Data centres are the **backbone of modern digital infrastructure**, powering everything from cloud computing to artificial intelligence (AI) applications, and providing the foundation for industries to thrive in the digital era.
8. Under **NIMP 2030**, we aim to create **3,000 smart factories by 2030**, driven by advanced technologies such as AI, big data, and machine learning. Google's state-of-the-art data centre will play a crucial role in enabling this vision.
9. Data centres are also critical enablers for Malaysia's ambition to become a **regional leader in cloud computing and AI**. Regionally, the demand for data processing and storage solutions is increasing exponentially. Malaysia is well-positioned to meet this demand, thanks to the **robust digital infrastructure** we are building, which includes data centres.
10. Equally important is how data centres enable **start-ups and SMEs** to access advanced technologies, helping them scale their operations and compete globally.

11. The government's strategic focus on data centres is also part of our broader effort to **integrate modern services into Malaysia's economy**. Data centres, along with **cloud services** and **digital government initiatives**, also form the foundation for Malaysia's further development of services in sectors such as **finance, healthcare, and education** – all these will increasingly rely on cloud computing and AI to **deliver innovative solutions timely, cost-efficiently and at scale**.

MALAYSIA'S POLICIES IN DEVELOPING 'GREEN' DATA CENTRES

Ladies and gentlemen,

12. Since **2021**, Malaysia has approved **RM123.5 billion** in data centre investments through **MIDA** and **MDEC**, positioning the country as a preferred regional data centre hub. Collectively, these investments are expected to create more than **64,000 high-value jobs**. The global average job multiplier for data centres varies by region and sector, typically creating 4 to 6 additional jobs for each direct role. For example, **Google's US**

data centres report a 5.9 multiplier, meaning nearly six indirect jobs for each direct one. This highlights the broader economic impact and job creation potential for Malaysia's data centre industry.

13. We are also aware of how energy-intensive data centres can be. That is why our **Green Investment Strategy (GIS)** is focused on ensuring that all new digital infrastructure developments, including data centres, support our commitment to achieving **net-zero emissions by 2050**.
14. To this end, the government will soon introduce **guidelines focused on Power Usage Effectiveness (PUE) and Water Usage Effectiveness (WUE)**, to minimise the environmental footprint of these facilities while maximising their operational efficiency.
15. Additionally, our upcoming **Corporate Renewable Energy Support Scheme (CRESS)** will enable **Third-Party Access (TPA)** for renewable energy, allowing companies to source clean energy directly from energy producers. This will further

promote green energy adoption to support the decarbonisation of Malaysia's digital infrastructure.

16. Just last week, we also launched the **Circular Economy Policy Framework (CEPF) for the Manufacturing Sector**, which will play a key role in ensuring that **industries, including data centres, embrace circularity** by promoting the reuse, recycling, and remanufacturing of materials. This approach aligns with Malaysia's broader sustainability goals and reinforces our leadership in **green growth** and **meeting our commitments under the Paris Agreement**.
17. Google's data centre will serve as a **new corporate benchmark in Malaysia** via their power (PUE) and water (WUE) usage effectiveness, and via our circular economy best practices.
18. As we have been informed, Google's **water stewardship program** aims to **replenish 120% of the water consumed**, starting with the **restoration of the lake in Taman Aman Park in Selangor**.

19. Equally noteworthy is Google's strong commitment to **clean energy**, by operating some of the most **energy-efficient data centres** globally. In fact, their goal to achieve **net-zero carbon emissions by 2030** demonstrates a real commitment to ensuring that high-tech can also be eco-friendly to shape a **greener, more sustainable future**.

AI AS A TRANSFORMATIVE FORCE: EMPOWERING MALAYSIANS & COMMUNITIES

Ladies and gentlemen,

20. Above all, this journey is about our people, about investment in our **communities**. We laud Google's collaboration with the **Ministry of Education, UNICEF Malaysia, CelcomDigi, MDEC**, and **Arus Academy** to implement the *Future Skills for All* initiative in Selangor, which we hope will also be replicated in other states.
21. There are many examples that highlight the transformative power of AI in improving the lives of Malaysians. By bringing **AI technologies** closer to home, Google is directly contributing to the realisation of our **MADANI Economy**

Framework, which prioritises **inclusivity, innovation, and sustainability**.

CLOSING

Ladies and gentlemen,

22. As we stand on the cusp of a new digital era, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Google for its continued confidence in Malaysia. The **Mantap Malaysia Bersama AI** project is more than just a data centre—it is a symbol of our shared commitment to building a future that is digitally-driven, sustainable, and inclusive.

23. Through the government's continued commitment to the **NIMP2030**, the **GIS**, the **CEPF**, and the **NSS** and together with the support of global tech giants like Google, we can and will position Malaysia as a leader in the global digital economy, while building a **prosperous, sustainable, and digitally-enabled Malaysia** for all.

Thank you.