



SPEECH

BY

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AZIZ**

**MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY
MALAYSIA**

FOR

THE LAUNCH OF R&D OFFICE CENTRE BETAMEK BERHAD

**3 MARCH 2025
BETAMEK RESEARCH SDN. BHD**

Mr. Ahmad Subri bin Abdullah,
Chairman, Betamek Berhad

Mr. Mirzan bin Mahathir
Managing Director, Betamek Berhad,

Mr. Muhammad Fauzi bin Abd Ghani,
Executive Director, Betamek Berhad

Betamek Board Members,

Distiguished Guests
Members of the media
Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera,
Salam Ramadhan Madani.

1. I am pleased to be here today to witness another milestone for Malaysia's industrial progress – the launch of this state-of-the-art Research & Development (R&D) facility of Betamek Berhad.

PAVING THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH VIA MALAYSIA'S INDUSTRIAL POLICIES

2. Today, R&D is no longer just a business advantage—it is a **national imperative**. The world is changing at an unprecedented pace. Technology is disrupting traditional industries, new economic models are emerging, and global competition is intensifying.
3. This is why **R&D and industry-driven innovation** are at the heart of the government's industrial policies like the **National Automotive Policy (NAP) 2020** and the **New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030)**. Malaysia aims to evolve from being just a producer of goods to becoming a creator of value, intellectual property, and innovation.
4. While the **NIMP2030** is our broad-based industrial reform policy, the **NAP 2020** is a more detailed plan that envisions Malaysia as an automotive regional export hub.
5. Both policies are very clear on how we plan to elevate specific industries, including through public-private partnerships. We **need industry players like Betamek to drive innovation and commercialise new technologies**.

6. Initiatives such as today's R&D centre launch represent **how Malaysian companies are investing in R&D to step up and position themselves for the future.**
7. Through our policies, Malaysia's **automotive industry has responded to the global demand for e-mobility solutions, and is making the necessary shift to reshape its supply chains and manufacturing processes.** Eventually, we want Malaysian companies to not just **participate** in such global trends, but also **lead regionally in areas such as smart and energy-efficient mobility technologies.**

MALAYSIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF ASEAN: COMPLEMENTING NATIONAL TRADE & INVESTMENT INITIATIVES.

8.

Ladies and gentlemen,

9. As we strive to enhance Malaysia's resilience and competitiveness, it is essential to recognize the ASEAN context in which we operate. I am happy to share that just last Friday, I had the honour of **chairing the ASEAN Economic Ministers Meeting 2025.** This gathering underscored our **collective commitment to advancing economic integration among ASEAN member states.**

8. There are **18 Priority Economic Deliverables (PEDs)** that were **proposed by Malaysia** and **unanimously accepted** as our key goals under ASEAN's Economic Pillar for 2025. One of these PEDs is the **ASEAN EV Policy and Guidelines**, which aims to **promote the sustainable development of EVs in our region**.
9. Additionally, we will also actively **negotiate, review or upgrade several trade-related Protocols and Agreements** that will help enhance opportunities for our businesses and exporters. These include the **ASEAN Trade in Goods Agreement (ATIGA)**¹, the **ASEAN-China Free Trade Area 3.0**², and the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**³.
10. Specifically related to the ATIGA, currently **intra-ASEAN trade stands at only 24-25%**. As we advance negotiations on these crucial trade and economic initiatives, we hope to increase that figure as we create **a more vibrant ASEAN trading ecosystem**.
11. In terms of **investments**, I am pleased to share that in 3Q 2024, Malaysia, together with Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam saw improved FDI inflow. This reflects the region's growing attractiveness as an investment destination as

¹ To streamline trade processes and facilitate easier access to goods across member states, reducing barriers and promoting a more integrated market

² To expand market access and deepen economic ties with one of our largest trading partners

³ To enhance trade relations with India, ensuring that our businesses can tap into new opportunities and markets

businesses continue to reassess and reconfigure their global operational and supply chain footprints.

12. Our region attracted investments in sectors including **automotive, electronics, mining, and services**. To continue capitalising on this, MITI and its relevant agencies such as MIDA, will **continue to promote our industrial reform policies to make Malaysia a more conducive and attractive destination for investments**.

INDUSTRIAL R&D: CORNERSTONE OF A HIGH-INCOME ECONOMY

13. However, to fully capitalise on this potential, we must realise that **a strong industrial base is not built overnight**. To that end, MITI through the NIMP is also **prioritising tech- and knowledge-driven growth by attracting the right investments, promoting more R&D in Malaysia, and deepening our collaboration with global partners**.
14. In line with our industrial plan's missions such as increasing economic complexity and embracing tech rapidly, we have implemented various initiatives to position Malaysia as a **leader in the global supply chain for advanced industries**. Our goal

is clear: to develop a more vibrant, resilient and future-ready Malaysian economy by 2030.

15. To that end, I would like to **commend Betamek for its commitment to innovation**. In advanced economies, **modern services** enhance the manufacturing sector by moving beyond labour-intensive tasks. A well-planned and well-executed modern services sector will not only support Malaysia's manufacturing industry but also foster innovation and increase economic complexity.
16. Betamek's **new R&D facility represents not just a new phase for the company's services**, but also a big step forward in Malaysia's journey towards becoming a **high-tech, high-value economy**.
17. From its humble beginnings in 1989 as an automotive parts vendor in Malaysia, Betamek is now a **Tier-1 vendor with Level 5 Supplier Competitiveness rating**. They also have **400 workers which I was told are 100% local**.
18. **Listed on Bursa Malaysia in 2022**, they achieved RM220 million sales in 2023. With their product line consisting of **car audio systems, digital instrument clusters, lighting systems and dashcams**, I am happy to note that they have begun to

explore the Thai and Vietnamese markets.

19. I am happy to note that **Betamek's new R&D office will serve as a hub for creativity, innovation, and collaboration.** I am sure it will empower your engineers and researchers to **explore cutting-edge technologies** as well as **develop new products and solutions.**

20. By fostering innovation, you are not only enhancing Betamek's competitiveness but also **contributing to the broader development of Malaysia's automotive sector.** On this score, by working together with local universities, research institutions, and other industry players, we can **cultivate an ecosystem that also accelerates the commercialization of new technologies.**

CONCLUSION

21. To end, congratulations again to the Betamek team on your new R&D centre, which plays an important role in our quest to promote industrial innovation.

22. On that note, *dan dengan lafaz Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*, it is my great honour to officially launch Betamek's Research & Development facility. Thank you.