



SPONSOR CLOSING REMARKS

**YB DATUK SERI UTAMA TENGKU ZAFRUL AZIZ
MINISTER OF INVESTMENT, TRADE AND INDUSTRY
MALAYSIA**

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

BLOOMBERG BUSINESS SUMMIT AT ASEAN 2025

27 OCTOBER 2025 (MONDAY), 4.20 P.M.

**GRAND SALON, HYATT REGENCY HOTEL, KUALA
LUMPUR**

[Salutations to be updated]

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Over the past two days, we've witnessed a remarkable convergence ideas, debates, and reflections. My deepest appreciation to **Bloomberg** for convening this Summit in Kuala Lumpur—at a moment that is nothing short of pivotal for Malaysia and ASEAN. As we draw this gathering to a close, one message rings clear: **ASEAN is not waiting for the world to change—we are shaping it.**
2. These sessions have reminded us, vividly and powerfully, that **ASEAN**—with 680 million people, dynamic economies, and boundless digital energy—**is no longer just a growth story. We are the story.** A region that continues to defy global headwinds and chart its own course of resilience, renewal, and relevance.
3. The Bloomberg Business Summit @ ASEAN 2025, made possible through the partnership of CIMB Group, Zetrix, and YTL, has reaffirmed that Malaysia's ASEAN Chairmanship is not a ceremonial title—it is **a mandate to lead. And we will lead with courage, clarity, and conviction.**

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4. One message rang loud and clear from this Summit: **sustainability is no longer a checkbox—it's a competitive edge.** Across boardrooms and factory floors, the ESG conversation has evolved **from compliance to impact, from obligation to opportunity.**

5. The dialogue on “**Asia’s ESG Moment**” captured this shift with precision. **ESG now drives capital flows, trade decisions, and corporate behaviour.** Malaysia’s own journey reflects this transformation. Through our **Green Investment Strategy, New Industrial Master Plan 2030, National Energy Transition Roadmap and the i-ESG Framework**, we are not just building a greener economy—we are building a smarter one. An economy where **investors, innovators, and industries collaborate** to deliver sustainability that is not only ethical, but also profitable.
6. It’s time to **move beyond net-zero promises** toward **net-positive outcomes.** **The private sector holds the key to this shift—from incremental change to transformative impact.** I hope this Summit has sparked the partnerships and bold thinking needed to accelerate that journey.
7. The message on **technology and AI** is equally clear: we’ve moved from hype to impact. **ASEAN** cannot afford to remain passive consumers of global innovation. We **must be co-creators—designing, deploying, and owning the technologies** that will shape our future.
8. The session on “**AI for ASEAN**” reminded us that our **digital journey** must reflect who we are: **diverse, inclusive, and forward-looking.** This spirit is alive in initiatives like the **Malaysia–China AI Innovation Centre**, and ASEAN’s **Digital Economy Framework Agreement**, which stand to be a game-changer for regional integration and digital sovereignty.

9. Our partners, **Zetrix and YTL**, underscored a vital truth: **digital growth is impossible without digital infrastructure**. Data centres, connectivity, and digital identity are not just technical enablers—they are **instruments of sovereignty, trust, and long-term competitiveness**.
10. In **Malaysia**, we are **positioning ourselves as a regional hub for AI and digital innovation**—not by chasing trends, but by **investing in talent, strengthening governance, and ensuring that technology remains in service of humanity**, not the other way around. This is **our north star: innovation with integrity, progress with purpose**.
11. But **innovation cannot thrive without capital**. The session led by our partner CIMB on “**Unlocking Capital for ASEAN**” was a timely reminder: the **scale of our ambitions demands** not just more investment, but **smarter, more catalytic capital**. We must reimagine **finance as a force multiplier for inclusive, sustainable growth**.
12. To **power ASEAN’s transformation**, we must **infuse innovation with inclusion**—mobilising **public-private partnerships, green finance, and blended capital** as catalytic engines of change. As Malaysia advances our sustainable finance agenda, we invite global investors to see **ASEAN** not merely as a destination for returns, but as a **partner in building *shared prosperity with purpose***.

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13. Malaysia's Chairmanship this year steered ASEAN towards a future that is **inclusive, sustainable, and competitive**. But leadership is not about dominance, but rather, direction.
14. As **Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim** said recently: *"The relative peace and prosperity that ASEAN has enjoyed for nearly six decades are not self-sustaining. They must be renewed through cooperation and strengthened by shared purpose. That is why ASEAN is deepening economic linkages, widening trade, and enhancing competitiveness."*
15. We are here **to connect, not compete; to collaborate, not collide**. Guided by the spirit of *MADANI* – of balance, empathy, and justice – Malaysia will continue to **anchor a stable, coherent, and prosperous ASEAN**. And we remain, without question, **one of the most compelling launchpads into this region's bright future**.
16. To the business leaders, thinkers, and innovators gathered here: see **ASEAN** not as a patchwork of markets, but as **a collective of possibilities**. This region has become a repository of global hopes—and of our people's aspirations. Together, **let's turn ambition into action, and aspiration into achievement**. Because, as many of you will agree: **when ASEAN prospers, the world follows**.
17. Finally, my heartfelt thanks to Bloomberg for being a trusted partner in **telling ASEAN's story to the world—a story still unfolding, and one we are proud to share and help shape**. I warmly invite each of you to be part of this journey. Because the ASEAN story is not just ours to tell—it's ours to build, together. **Terima kasih, thank you**.