

**TEKS UCAPAN
YB DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH HAJI YUSOF
MENTERI KERJA RAYA**

**OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF CIDB AND BAYER
MATERIALSCIENCE JOINT INITIATIVE FOR
AFFORDABLE HOUSING SOLUTION IN MALAYSIA**

PUSAT KONVENSYEN CIDB

16 MAC 2015

Bismillahirrahmanirahim

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Y. Bhg. Dato' Seri Judin Abdul Karim,
CEO, CIDB Berhad

Members of the Media

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen

1. Good morning and Salam 1 Malaysia. It is with great pleasure that I am able to be here this morning to officiate the launch of the joint initiative between the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and Bayer MaterialScience for affordable housing solutions in Malaysia.

2. I am also pleased to note that the public and private sector stakeholders like CIDB , Bayer MaterialScience and a range of partners from other fields namely PU Profile, Square Panels and Philips Malaysia, have successfully developed an array of innovative and economically sustainable solutions in affordable housing for low income families. This, I am confident will complement the Government's continuous commitment and

efforts in providing the under-served, low-income communities with better access to sturdy, safe and reliable housing on a sustainable basis.

3. As such, I would like to record the Government's appreciation to Bayer MaterialScience for providing the technology and resources in making affordable housing achievable and scalable in Malaysia for the socio-wellbeing of the rakyat.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. In many economies, affordable housing forms the basis for safe , reliable and viable homes for communities. However, in recent years it has become clear that many countries, even developed economies, are facing housing crisis fuelled by a number of factors. These include a growing population, land availability and rising cost of living. The constant and dramatic upsurge of house prices is unfortunately paired with wages that have not kept pace alongside this upsurge which has led to low income earners losing the opportunity to own homes and enjoy a better quality of life.

5. In recognising the need for affordable housing solutions , the Government is vigilantly and proactively looking into measures to avoid further aggravation of the situation in the country. During the tabling of Budget 2015, our Honorable Prime Minister, YAB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib Tun Haji Abdul Razak , again underlines the Government's commitment to ensure the well-being of the rakyat is being preserved through a significant measure by allocating more funds in building more affordable houses for the low and middle income groups.

6. This is where I want to stress that forging strategic partnerships amongst industry players of the construction sector and other relevant industries can mitigate the housing gap for affordable housing. Once again, I want to reiterate my utmost support for the strong collaboration between CIDB and Bayer MaterialScience to provide us with economical and practical solutions to address the issue of housing shortage which will drive our national imperatives. In this regards, I would like to emphasise that by connecting with the right partners who are experts and leaders in their respective fields, facilitating peer exchange and knowledge sharing will synergistically enable us to produce new

and innovative solutions in addressing the challenges of affordable housing in the country.

7. I am confident the result of this collaboration will be safe and sturdy houses which can be assembled quickly and easily using Bayer MaterialScience's expertise in lightweight polyurethane composite panels which in turn will translate into saving time and costs. Furthermore, the composite construction materials have good insulation properties which makes the houses more energy efficient and cost effective. I am also pleased to know that a critical aspect of this effort is not only to produce highly durable and robust building materials, but materials that are flood and fire-resistant which are able to withstand strong winds as well.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The recent unprecedented floods last year which affected the states of Kelantan, Terengganu, Pahang, Perak, Johor, Sabah and Sarawak has provided us much insights and lessons learned particularly on the construction of houses where we witnessed much devastation. It was reported that more than 200,000 people were forced to leave their homes which were submerged and some completely destroyed by the floods. Consequently, it is

critical that we would now have to re-look at the methods and the adoption of new materials and technologies in constructing houses which are sturdy enough to withstand natural disasters such as floods and strong winds.

9. Finally, I would like to remind all of you that the success of a development project is not based on its size or value but by the impact it brings on communities. Therefore, I hope the successful completion of the demo-house will witness the start of a long term smart partnership between CIDB and Bayer MaterialScience in promoting and delivering effective and efficient solutions that improves the quality of life of our citizens.

On that note, I would like to once again congratulate CIDB and Bayer MaterialScience and officially launch their joint initiative for affordable housing solutions in Malaysia.

Thank you.