

**TEXT OF SPEECH**  
**FOR**  
**YB. DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF,**  
**MINISTER OF WORKS, MALAYSIA**  
**AT REAM GALA DINNER**  
**ON 20 JANUARY 2018**  
**AT SIME DARBY CONVENTION CENTRE**

(SALUTATIONS)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam  
Sejahtera, Salam Negaraku Malaysia

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

1. First of all I would like to thank the President of REAM and its Council Members for inviting me to the REAM Gala Dinner which happen to be my first social function with REAM since my appointment as the Minister of Works, Malaysia.
2. Here I would like to take this opportunity to commend REAM for its efforts in not only advancing the knowledge in road engineering but also fostering the social interaction and networking amongst the road industry's fraternity.

Events such as this allow people from the industry to renew their acquaintances and further strengthen their friendship, which I am confident will lead to greater cooperation and exchange of ideas for the benefit of the industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Apart from the numerous activities carried out by REAM, I am pleased to note from the President's address that REAM, in its endeavour to encourage excellence in local institutions of higher learning, will once again disburse the REAM Education Fund Financial Assistance to needy students pursuing tertiary education and presenting the Final Year Best Civil Engineering Student Project Awards. The funds for these offerings are derived from surpluses accruing from organising activities participated by the road industry community. As such, the road industry players should equally take pride of these noble initiatives of REAM.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. Under the respective Malaysian Plans, billions were allocated for the development of new roads and the improvement and upgrading of existing roads. In tandem with the Government's Development Policies, the rural road network is also being further expanded and upgraded to ensure a balance and inclusive socio-economic development in ensuring sustainable integration of our communities and regions.
5. In this regard, I would like to see a concerted effort in improving road services especially in the area of traffic congestion management, enhancing road safety and greater use of new technologies in construction. I am happy to announce that the Ministry of Works has formulated a set of key performance indicators to ensure that the level of services provided, especially by the toll concessionaires are up to mark.
6. Despite all these efforts, road safety has become the primary bane of contention as continuing high incidences of road crashes and fatalities stand out as one of the main causes of death in Malaysia. The economic loss to our nation annually as a result of casualties runs into billions by way of loss in output, medical expenses, insurance and damage to properties . Again, the tragic loss of life,

limb and trauma to victims' family and friends are incomputable.

7. I have been informed that the road safety audit training which are regularly conducted by REAM is good and is hopeful that REAM will work with other government agencies towards changing the mindset of those driving and riding motorised vehicles on our roads.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The current scenario of escalating material prices are having a great impact on the construction industry and poses much challenge in this competitive environment. In this aspect, I must salute all of you for your resilience and the way you are addressing these challenges facing the industry. It is heartening to see that many of you who have moved beyond the country while others have re-engineered and re-make themselves to remain relevant. At this juncture, I would like to assure all of you of the government's continuous commitment in providing whatever assistance and support that is needed to help to mitigate these impacts and uncertainties. I am open and is ready to receive any feedback or suggestions from any of you for the betterment of the industry.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. In strengthening and empowering the industry, I am also encouraging my officers to be involved in international bodies such as the World Road Association (PIARC), International Road Federation (IRF) and Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA) which I believe can expose them to the latest knowledge and technologies which they can recommend for adoption and be implemented in Malaysia.

10. I would like to thank REAM for its initiative in organising group delegations to attend conferences organised by such international bodies coupled with road infrastructure study tours. It is envisioned that our Malaysian delegates will be able to have a firsthand look at the latest development in the different countries and thus expanding their knowledge base and exposure which I am sure will benefit us in our own development programmes. Time permitting, I am hoping to join the REAM delegation in one of your outings.

11. In this context, I have directed my Ministry to pitch for the 27th World Road Congress (WRC) in 2023 which we

look forward to win in our bid. For the records, Malaysia organised the 21st World Road Congress in 1999 successfully and further enhanced its image in the international arena as a professional and hospitable host. Malaysia's success in drawing the largest number of international delegates and exhibitors to date is still being lauded by the World Road Association (PIARC) and its member countries.

On that note, I would like once again to express my appreciation to REAM for inviting me here this evening.

May I wish all of you an enlightening evening and bon appetite.

Thank you.