

ASSALAMUALAIKUM WARAHMATULLAHI
WABARAKATUH, SALAM SEJAHTERA DAN SALAM 1
MALAYSIA,

1. LET ME BEGIN BY THANKING THE **ASSOCIATION OF CONSULTING ENGINEERS MALAYSIA (ACEM)** FOR INVITING ME TO JOIN ITS MEMBERS AND GUEST THIS EVENING IN CELEBRATING ITS **52ND ANNIVERSARY**. HERE I WOULD ASLO LIKE TO CONGRATULATE THE NEW ACEM PRESIDENT, IR. PREM KUMAR AND HIS COUNCIL MEMBERS WHO HAVE A VITAL ROLE IN MAKING MALAYSIA A BIGGER EXPORTER OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES THAN EVER BEFORE.
2. THE MINISTRY OF WORKS THROUGH ITS AGENCIES, **JABATAN KERJA RAYA MALAYSIA** AND **LEMBAGA LEBUHRAYA MALAYSIA** ARE THE LARGEST EMPLOYER OF ENGINEERING CONSULTANTS IN THE COUNTRY. AS SUCH, I HAVE HIGH

EXPECTATIONS ON OUR AGENCIES AND ACEM TO PROPEL THIS INDUSTRY INTO GREATER HEIGHTS BY BRINGING IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT. THE GOVERNMENT, UNDER THE 11TH MALAYSIA PLAN PLACES HIGH EMPHASIS ON THE SERVICES SECTOR AND IN PARTICULAR THE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES THEREIN, WHICH INCLUDES PROFESSIONAL SERVICES SUCH AS ENGINEERING , ARCHITECTURAL , QUANTITY SURVEY AS WELL AS THE CONSTRUCTION OF RESIDENTIAL AND NON-RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS TO BE THE MAIN SOURCE OF GROWTH, OUTPUT AND EMPLOYMENT. TOGETHER, I BELIEVE WE CAN SYNERGISTICALLY TAKE THE INDUSTRY TO A HIGHER LEVEL BY BUILDING ON OUR CORE-COMPETENCIES, RESILIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCES TO CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY TOWARDS THE GDP OF THE COUNTRY.

3. TOWARDS THIS END I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOU THAT THE **NATIONAL EXPORT COUNCIL** WHICH WAS FORMED LAST YEAR HAS DIRECTED THE MINISTRY OF WORKS TO ESTABLISH A FOCUS GROUP TO UNDERTAKE THE TASK OF INCREASING THE EXPORT OF CONSTRUCTION SERVICES EARNINGS. THE FOCUS GROUP WILL CONSIST OF ALL RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS OF THE CONSTRUCTION SERVICES AND WILL DELIBERATE IN FORMULATING STRATEGIES AND INITIATIVES WHICH WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNMENT IN ACHIEVING THE DESIRED OUTCOMES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

4. FROM MY OBSERVATIONS, I CAN SEE THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS FRATERNITY HAS BECOME TOO COMFORTABLE ON HOME GROUND AND IS RELUCTANT TO

UNDERTAKE OVERSEAS VENTURES.

WHILE I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE CHALLENGES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPANDING OVERSEAS, I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU OF THE NEED TO GROW BEYOND THE DOMESTIC MARKET IN ENSURING STEADY GROWTH AND RELIABLE RETURNS. THIS IS THE WAY FORWARD AND THERE IS NO TURNING BACK JUDGING FROM THE EXTERNAL ENVIRONMENT WHICH WILL SEE SLOWER ECONOMIC GROWTH AND STIFFER COMPETITION FROM FOREIGN FIRMS FROM WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY.

5. ON THE EXPORT OF SERVICES, I AM CONFIDENT OUR CONSULTING ENGINEERS HAVE THE TECHNICAL EXPERTISE AND SKILLS TO BE GLOBAL PLAYERS.

THEREFORE, BY COLLABORATING WITH BIGGER PLAYERS ON A CONCERTED BASIS WILL RESULT IN US HAVING THE NECESSARY LEVERAGE AND CONFIDENCE IN VENTURING OVERSEAS. I AM INFORMED

THAT TONIGHT'S **ACEM'S GOLD AWARD OF SPECIAL MERIT WINNER** WILL BE SHARING WITH YOU ON THIS AND HOPE YOU WILL ALL BE INSPIRED.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

6. SINCE TAKING OFFICE AT THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, I HAVE SIGNED INTO FORCE THE **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PAYMENT ADJUDICATION ACT 2012**; THE **CIDB ACT (AMENDMENT) 2011**; THE **REGISTRATION OF ENGINEERS ACT (AMENDMENT) 2014** ; THE **ARCHITECTS ACT 2014** AND THE **QUANTITY SURVEYORS ACT 2014** ALL OF WHICH ARE STRATEGICALLY ALIGNED TO EMPOWER AND STRENGTHEN THE INDUSTRY.

THE UPSCALING OF THE INDUSTRY FURTHER WITNESSED THE LAUNCH OF THE **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME (CITP)** BY **OUR PRIME MINISTER** WITH 18 INITIATIVES AIMED AT TRANSFORMING THE

CONSTRUCTION SECTOR INTO A MODERN, HIGHLY PRODUCTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE INDUSTRY BY 2020.

7. IN ADDITION, THE CABINET ALSO APPROVED THE FORMATION OF AN **INTER-AGENCY INVESTIGATION COMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION MISHAPS AND MISCONSTRUCTION** LED BY THE MINISTRY OF WORKS TO ENSURE THAT ALL CONSTRUCTION PLAYERS DISCHARGE THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES TO THE HIGHEST SAFETY STANDARDS. APART FROM THIS, THE MINISTRY OF WORKS IS ALSO WORKING ON A NEW SET OF RULES AND REGULATIONS WHICH WILL IMPROVE AND ENHANCE SAFETY STANDARDS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY BENCHMARKED AGAINST THE BEST IN THE WORLD. THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND THE BOARD OF ENGINEERS MALAYSIA ARE WORKING ON THIS AND I AM HOPEFUL ACEM WILL BE

ABLE TO PROVIDE THE RELEVANT INPUTS
IN THIS INITIATIVE.

8. I WOULD LIKE TO EMPHASISE THAT ALL
THESE ARE NOT **AD HOC** MEASURES BUT
WELL THOUGHT AND DESIGNED TO
POSITION OUR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
AS A HIGHLY COMPETITIVE, PROFESSIONAL,
DYNAMIC, RESILIENT AND SAFE INDUSTRY
THAT CAN FULFILL THE NEEDS OF A
DEVELOPED NATION.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

9. THE INFRASTRUCTURES AND BUILDINGS IN
OUR COUNTRY HAS IMPROVED THE
QUALITY OF LIFE OF THE RAKYAT AND IS
TESTIMONY OF OUR ENGINEERING
ACHIEVEMENTS. AT THIS JUNCTURE, I
WOULD LIKE TO SALUTE AND
ACKNOWLEDGE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF

THE CONSULTING ENGINEERS FRATERNITY
FOR RELENTLESSLY MOVING UP THE VALUE
CHAIN OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
IN OUR NATION BUILDING JOURNEY.

WITH CLIMATE CHANGE, DEPLETION
OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION, YOUR
ROLE AS ENGINEERS ARE BECOMING MORE
CHALLENGING AND CRUCIAL AS YOU
ENDEAVOUR TO BUILD BETTER, SAFER AND
GREENER FOR THE FUTURE GENERATION.

10. FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO ONCE AGAIN
CONGRATULATE THE PRESIDENT AND ALL
MEMBERS OF ACEM ON THE OCCASION OF
THEIR 52ND ANNIVERSARY AND WISH ALL OF
YOU EVERY SUCCESS IN YOUR FUTURE
ENDEAVOURS.

THANK YOU.