

Opening Speech

By

The Minister of Works

Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah bin Yusof

In Conjunction with

The Sunway Safety Week

&

Signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

between

CIDB and Sunway Construction Group

1 July 2015

Sunway Putra Hotel

1. Salutations (to be provided during the event)
2. Let me begin by thanking the Sunway Construction Group (SCG) for inviting me to officiate the Sunway Safety Week and witness the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) and SCG.
3. SCG's commitment and seriousness in addressing the issue of safety as a culture in the industry by triggering change within its organisation is definitely a worthwhile effort to emulate by other construction industry players.
4. The government and the industry must work hand-in-hand to elevate the image of the industry by addressing its current issues, particularly in the aspect of safety and health. Under the CIDB Act Amendment 2011, CIDB as the regulatory body is committed to the mission of preventing death, serious injury and harm to health of workers and of others who may

be exposed to risks from construction activities. CIDB in providing information, raising awareness, research, training and proposing new laws and standards and enforcing the laws further reinforce the Government's seriousness and concern of safety and health issues of the construction industry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Our challenge is to utilise lessons learned over the years to ensure that we and other stakeholders are relevant in the present and future. We have set ourselves some demanding targets by simplifying and improving health and safety legislation and information to be more efficient through dedicated construction inspection. CIDB will seek to continually exert its influence where it is most effective in improving health and safety outcomes. Our strategy for construction therefore includes looking at how those further up the supply chain can play their part in influencing how

health and safety plays out further down the supply chain. In particular, we are interested in improving how designers and clients influence the materials that are employed, the sequence of construction and detailed design of structures to ensure it can be built safely and healthily. This is supported by a regulatory framework which acknowledges the impact of procurement and design decisions which places legal requirements on clients and designers accordingly.

6. This clearly shows the government commitment in improving the safety and health aspect of the construction sector. Culminating to these efforts, the Construction Industry Transformation Programme (CITP) which is scheduled to be launched in September will see to it that strategies and initiatives to transform the industry in terms of quality, safety, sustainability and productivity is crafted comprehensively. As such, I would like to take the opportunity to highlight some of the CITP initiatives which we have put in place to enhance

and instill the safety and health best practices in the construction sector.

7. Firstly, a more stringent requirement on occupational safety and health will be introduced. These includes having adequate laws and statutes, increasing safety awareness and attitude, improving competency, as well as emphasizing safety in procurement processes.

8. Secondly, we will work with the Ministry of Human Resources to establish and enforce a Malaysian Standard for workers amenities in the construction industry. I believe the government can play a critical role in pushing for the improvement of living conditions of construction workers. As Malaysia closes on in achieving developed nations status, workers living in deplorable conditions is not acceptable anymore. Therefore, the CITP which proposes to extend the requirement for worker's minimum standard of housing and

amenities under Act 446 for the construction sector is an important step forward.

9. A local benchmark for a quality living quarters for workers is the Centralised Labour Quarters (CLQ), developed by MRT Corp for its workers working on the MRT projects. The four CLQs located in Sungai Buloh, Cheras, Kajang and Jalan Chocrane houses up to 12,000 workers which apart from providing comfortable cabin and dormitories also provide other amenities such as cafeteria, sundry shops, kitchen and prayer facilities.

10. This is the step that we will take and I am confident in setting an industry standard on construction workers amenities which supports greater productivity and drive further progress in the industry.

Ladies and gentlemen

11. Everyone in the construction industry has a role to play, and is responsible for managing the risks. In the years to come you will be the leaders in your chosen profession, but it is vital that from now, the moment you enter industry, you must take leadership in health and safety and create the right culture within your workplace for managing risk. This is how you will save lives by not only eliminating them but identifying new and emerging risks within the industry and ensuring that appropriate measures are put in place where they are needed. I am happy to note that SCG is one of the first companies to come forward and pledge their support towards the implementation of the CITP. Among others, SCG have also pledged to have all their projects adopting the Safety and Health Assessment System in Construction (SHASSIC) which is developed by CIDB, an independent method used to assess and evaluate the safety and health compliance of a contractor in a construction project.

12. I believe the MoU to be signed today between CIDB and SCG will further strengthen the commitment made by SCG in putting “Safety First” in all of their projects. My hearthiest congratulations to CIDB and SCG for this proactive initiative once again and with these words, it gives me great pleasure to officially launch the Sunway Safety Week 2015.

Thank you.