Teks Ucapan Menteri Kerja Raya,YB Dato' Sri Haji Fadillah Haji Yusof

Lawatan Tapak dan Pembukaan Jalan Keluar-Masuk di Persimpangan Bertingkat Kuang Sistem

Isnin, 9^{hb} Januari 2017

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

YB Dato' Dr. Hj. Noor Azmi Bin Hj. Ghazali Pengerusi Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia

YBhg Dato' Ir. Hj. Ismail Bin Md Salleh Ketua Pengarah Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia

YBhg Dato' Sri Ir. Dr. Roslan Bin Md Taha Ketua Pengarah Kerja Raya Malaysia

YBhg Dato' Lin Yun Ling, Pengarah Urusan Kumpulan, Gamuda Berhad

YBhg Dato' Haji Abdul Sahak Safi Pengarah Eksekutif, Gamuda Land

YBhg. Datuk Azman Bin Ismail Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Lebuhraya PLUS

YBhg Dato' Ir. Hj. Mohamad Razali Bin Othman Pengerusi Lebuhraya LATAR

Pegawai-Pegawai dari Kementerian Kerja Raya, Lembaga Lebuhraya Malaysia serta Agensi-agensi Kerajaan,

Wakil-wakil syarikat konsesi lebuh raya, Rakan-rakan media,

Tuan-Tuan dan Puan-Puan yang dihormati sekalian

Selamat Pagi dan Salam Sejahtera,

Let me begin by recording my appreciation to the management of Gamuda Land for inviting me to the opening of the PLUS-LATAR interchange which was constructed by TPPT Sdn Bhd in partnership with Gamuda Land, yet another success story of

Malaysia's public-private partnership model. The private sector's contribution in complementing the government's efforts to provide a network of sustainable and integrated expressways to spur the country's economic development is invaluable.

The investments in infrastructure development and maintenance remains a top priority of the government in driving value at all levels of the supply chain. For example, the Federal government maintains 50,000km toll-free Federal roads and continues to provide annual allocations to the individual states in maintaining its roads.

I am pleased to note that the development in North Kuala Lumpur is booming due to the connectivity provided by three expressways namely KL-Kuala Selangor Expressway (LATAR), Guthrie Corridor Expressway (GCE) and North-South Expressway (NSE).

The completion of LATAR in 2011 was a major turning point as it reduced the travel time between Kuala Lumpur and Rawang which forms part of the KL Outer Ring Road. The KLORR which is a network of highway serves as an orbital system of ring roads around Greater KL, a traffic dispersal system easing traffic congestions in and out of the city of KL.

In addition to dispersing traffic and reducing congestion around the capital, KL Outer Ring Road provides optional connectivity through wider, faster and safer routes to different parts of Greater KL. Meanwhile, the old trunk roads remains as the main routes in connecting communities off the tolled highway networks.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Spurred by the connectivity of expressways, the northern Selangor areas of Sungai Buloh and Rawang including its surrounding areas of Kundang and Kuang are enjoying steep residential, commercial and industrial development opportunities which have in turn become a multiplier on the local economy by attracting new investments.

The Northern Selangor region which is now one of the fastest growing areas in Selangor with Rawang is witnessing the growth of more than 10 townships by major developers. This will encompass in the development of schools and colleges, shopping malls and many other facilities to serve the growing population which is expected to reach 330,000 by 2020. Likewise industrial parks especially around the Kundang area are also successful in attracting business owners and enterprises to setup their base there.

These days, travelling is easy where one can expect to be in Kuala Lumpur in just 30 minutes, expedited by cashless electronic toll collection. I am delighted that getting

into the city is now made even faster and easier with the opening of the Sungai Buloh-Kajang mass rapid transit (MRT) line in December 2016. With the MRT, a train ride from Semantan to Sungai Buloh will only take about half an hour which makes it easy for Malaysians to live in these suburban areas and travel to any part of the city seamlessly.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The opening of this new 3.1km PLUS-LATAR interchange will provide an even easier and faster access to Kundang and its surrounding areas. With direct access from the NSE to the B29 at Rawang will reduce the travel distance and time to and from Kuala Lumpur by approximately 10 km and 15 minutes.

I am confident this interchange will complement the LATAR and NSE by providing an additional impetus in boosting the development of the Kundang area and uplift the socio-economic status of its residents.

As such, I am pleased to note that Gamuda Land has taken the initiative to develop Gamuda Gardens within the area of this interchange through a multi-billion ringgit development which offers affordable homes, commercial village and future business hubs which will create new employment and business opportunities for the people in the surrounding areas.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In line with the government's continuous drive for quality homes, Gamuda Land must be lauded for the implementation of the Integrated Building Systems (IBS) where building components are prefabricated at its factory in Sepang and installed on site in ensuring higher levels of quality and productivity compared to traditional methods of construction. The use of this technology effectively reduces construction time and material wastages, at the same time reducing the reliance on foreign manual labour which paves the way for construction workers to be upskilled on the use of IBS technologies.

With a capacity to produce up to 2,000 units of houses per year, I believe Gamuda IBS is in a unique position to assist the government in fulfilling its aspirations to build sufficient affordable homes for the rakyat in a timely and consistent manner where high quality standards become the benchmark for public housing.

Once again, I want to thank Gamuda for their support in constantly coming up with innovative ideas for the benefits of Malaysians as we look forward in exploring new opportunities with them in the near future.

Finally, I would like to wish Gamuda Land all the best in the development of Gamuda Gardens and officially declare the opening of the PLUS-LATAR interchange.

Wabillahi taufiq walhidayah wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.