

YANG BERUSAHA MR MATTHEW TEE,
PRESIDENT, MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION
MALAYSIA (MBAM),

YANG BERUSAHA TAN SRI AK NATHAN,
VICE PRESIDENT, MBAM CUM ORGANIZING
CHAIRMAN OF MBAM 61ST ANNIVERSARY
ORGANIZING COMMITTEE,

YBHG. DATUK LAI FOOT KONG, MBAM
HONORARY LIFE PRESIDENT,

YBHG. TAN SRI DR. AHMAD TAJUDDIN ALI,
CHAIRMAN, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
DEVELOPMENT BOARD MALAYSIA,

YBHG. TAN SRI DATUK TEE HOCK SENG,
GROUP MANAGING DIRECTOR OF BINA PURI
HOLDINGS BHD,

YBHG. TAN SRI JEFFREY CHEAH, CHAIRMAN
OF SUNWAY GROUP,

REPRESENTATIVES FROM PROFESSIONAL
BODIES AND AFFILIATED ASSOCIATION,

PAST PRESIDENTS, HONORARY ADVISORS
AND COUNCIL MEMBERS OF MBAM,

TAN SRI – TAN SRI,

DATO' – DATO', DATIN – DATIN,

DISTINGUISHED GUESTS,

MEMBERS OF THE MEDIA,

SALAM 1 MALAYSIA AND SALAM SEHATI
SEJIWA

1. LET ME BEGIN BY APOLOGIZING ON
BEHALF OF YAB. DATO' SERI DR.
AHMAD ZAHID BIN HAMIDI, DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER OF MALAYSIA WHO IS NOT ABLE TO

BE WITH US TODAY DUE TO SOME UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES. MY DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO THE MASTER BUILDERS ASSOCIATION MALAYSIA (MBAM) FOR INVITING ME TO THIS AUSPICIOUS ANNUAL DINNER IN COMMEMORATION WITH ITS 61ST ANNIVERSARY AND I MUST SAY THAT THIS GIVES ME AN ENORMOUS SENSE OF SATISFACTION TO BE HERE WITH ALL OF YOU WHO REPRESENTS THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. I AM INDEED HONOURED TO BE GIVEN THE OPPORTUNITY TO SAY A FEW WORDS AND WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO CONGRATULATE MBAM FOR SUCCESSFULLY ORGANISING THIS EVENT WHICH I BELIEVE PROVIDES US AN EXCELLENT PLATFORM FOR THE EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND IDEAS BETWEEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ACADEMIA, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR.

2. TONIGHT, I JOIN ALL YOUR FRIENDS, BUSINESS PARTNERS AND ALL MALAYSIANS TO SALUTE AND CONGRATULATE MBAM AND ITS MEMBERS FOR YOUR RESILIENCE, UNITY AND CONTRIBUTION TO OUR NATION BUILDING. YOUR MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 6,000 INCLUDING 26 AFFILIATE ASSOCIATION MEMBERS IS FURTHER TESTIMONY OF YOUR RELEVANCE TO THE INDUSTRY.

3. I BELIEVE MBAM HAVE AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN OUR NATIONAL ECONOMIC IMPERATIVES AS ENABLERS AND DRIVERS AS WE FORGE IN TRANSFORMING THE COUNTRY FOR GREATER GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS. THE DEMAND FOR CONSTRUCTION IN MALAYSIA IS EXPECTED TO GROW FURTHER AS IS EVIDENT IN THE 11TH MALAYSIA PLAN (11MP) WHICH ESTIMATES THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO EXPAND BY 10.3 PERCENT PER ANNUM OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEAR. THE GROWTH WILL COME FROM

THE INCREASING DEMAND FOR HOUSING, ESPECIALLY FOR THE MIDDLE INCOME GROUP AS WELL AS CONTINUED INVESTMENTS IN LARGE SCALE PROJECTS SUCH AS THE KUALA LUMPUR-SINGAPORE HIGH SPEED RAIL, THE PAN-BORNEO HIGHWAY, REFINERY AND PETROCHEMICALS INTEGRATED DEVELOPMENT PROJECT (RAPID) AND THE KVMRT LINE 2 JUST TO NAME A FEW. THESE DEMANDS WILL TRANSLATE INTO THE NEED TO SUPPLY BETTER QUALITY HOMES, TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, MORE SOPHISTICATED INFRASTRUCTURE, TOWNS AND CITIES.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN

4. MALAYSIA'S OVER-RIDING GOAL TO ACHIEVE HIGH INCOME DEVELOPED NATION STATUS CAN BE SUPPORTED BY MBAM MEMBERS IN CONTINUOUSLY CHARTING THE COURSE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

TO GREATER EFFICIENCY AND PRODUCTIVITY. THE GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO FORMULATE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT THE MALAYSIAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY AS IT ENTERS INTO THE NEXT PHASE OF ITS DEVELOPMENT BY CREATING A BALANCED AND ADVANCED ECONOMY.

5. I AM AWARE ON THE MANY CHALLENGES FACED BY MBAM AND THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ESPECIALLY ON MANPOWER REQUIREMENTS AND THE CONTINUOUS UPSKILLING TO ENSURE SUSTAINABLE GROWTH. IT IS HERE THAT I WOULD LIKE TO DRAW YOUR ATTENTION TO THE THEME OF TONIGHT'S CELEBRATION WHICH IS **"EMPOWERING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION"** WHICH IS TIMELY AND CRUCIAL. THE ISSUES MBAM ARE FACING SUCH AS MANPOWER RESOURCES AND OVER-RELIANT ON FOREIGN LABOUR, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH, HEAVY

IMPORT DUTIES FOR HEAVY CONSTRUCTION MACHINERIES JUST TO NAME A FEW, MUST BE ADDRESSED COHESIVELY AND COMPREHENSIVELY IN EMPOWERING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WITH A SOLID FOUNDATION SO THAT IT CAN FACE THE MANY CHALLENGES CONFIDENTLY.

6. I ASSURE MBAM THE GOVERNMENT WILL PROACTIVELY LOOK INTO THESE ISSUES RAISED AND WILL RESOLVE THE MATTERS FOR THE CONTINUED GROWTH OF THE MALAYSIAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY. THE SUCCESS OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY RELIES HEAVILY ON CONCERTED EFFORTS BY THE GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD MALAYSIA (CIDB), RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS AND MBAM TO ADDRESS AND MANAGE THESE CHALLENGES SYNERGISTICALLY. I ACKNOWLEDGE AND TAKE NOTE OF MBAM'S CONTINUED

INTERNATIONAL RECOGNITION THROUGH ITS AFFILIATIONS WITH THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF ASIAN AND WESTERN PACIFIC CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATIONS (IFAWPCA) AND ASEAN CONSTRUCTORS FEDERATION (ACF).

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

7. THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY HAS MOVED FAR BEYOND BRICK AND MORTAR OF BUILDINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURES. IT HAS EVOLVED IN THE DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, ENGINEERING, MAINTENANCE AND PROJECT MANAGEMENT OF THE INDUSTRY TO BE MORE KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN, SKILLS-BASED AND TECHNOLOGICALLY-ADVANCED. AS SUCH, CONSTRUCTION PROFESSIONALS NEED TO CONSTANTLY ADAPT TO THE CHANGING NEEDS WHERE THEY WILL HAVE TO LEARN, UNLEARN AND RELEARN NEW KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS. THROUGH THEIR WILLINGNESS

TO PICK UP NEW KNOWLEDGE AND EXCEL AT NEW SKILLS , THE MALAYSIAN CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY CAN EXPECT TO ENJOY A TRULY MODERN BUILT ENVIRONMENT WHERE WE CAN LIVE, WORK AND PLAY IN A SAFE AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER.

8. I AM PLEASED TO NOTE THAT THROUGH THE VARIOUS TRAINING AND EDUCATION INITIATIVES BY MBAM, THE SAFETY SITE SUPERVISOR PROGRAMME WITNESSED MORE THAN 2,400 CANDIDATES SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETING THE MBAM SSS AS PART OF THE ASSOCIATIONS COMMITMENT TO PROMOTE TRAINING AND EDUCATION TO MEET THE INDUSTRY'S NEED. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO RECORD MY GREATEST APPRECIATION ON THE MBAM EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME WHICH HAVE PROVIDED MORE THAN 113 STUDENTS WITH SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE 1999 TO PURSUE VARIOUS

CONSTRUCTION RELATED EDUCATION PROGRAMMES. THE COLLABORATION WITH UNIVERSITIES ON DEGREE RELATED PROGRAMMES SUCH AS THE INSTITUTE OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - OPEN UNIVERSITY MALAYSIA - MBAM DEGREE PROGRAMMES AND KDU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE ARE SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS FOR MBAM AS THERE IS A SOARING DEMAND FOR WELL-TRAINED AND KNOWLEDGEABLE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS.

9. FINALLY, I WOULD LIKE TO ONCE AGAIN THANK MBAM FOR HAVING ME TONIGHT AND WISH ALL OF YOU A WONDERFUL EVENING. THANK YOU.