



OPENING SPEECH

BY

**YB DATO' SRI ALEXANDER NANTA LINGGI
MINISTER OF PUBLIC WORKS**

13th MALAYSIAN ROAD CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2026

&

**6th INTERNATIONAL ROAD FEDERATION GLOBAL
ASIA-PACIFIC REGIONAL CONGRESS**

13 OCTOBER 2026 | TUESDAY | 11:15 A.M.

**TUN HUSSEIN ONN (THO) HALL
WORLD TRADE CENTRE KUAL LUMPUR**

SALUTATIONS

[To be provided separately by the Secretariat]

INTRODUCTION

- 1.** Salam Malaysia MADANI and Salam Segulai Sejalai. A very good morning to our distinguished guests, speakers, delegates and members of the road engineering fraternity. It is a pleasure to welcome you to the 13th Malaysian Road Conference 2026 and the 6th International Road Federation Global Asia-Pacific Regional Congress. I thank the Organising Committee for inviting me to officiate this important gathering.
- 2.** This event reflects the strong collaboration of the Ministry of Works (KKR), the Public Works Department (JKR) Malaysia, the Road Engineering Association of Malaysia (REAM), the Malaysian Highway Authority (LLM), the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) Malaysia and the Malaysian Institute of Road Safety Research (MIROS). I also extend my appreciation to our international partners: the Road Engineering Association of Asia and Australasia (REAAA), IRF Global, the World Road Association (PIARC), the Korea Road Association (KROAD), and the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation in the United Kingdom. Your support strengthens the conference's international standing.
- 3.** To the delegates joining us, including participants from Australia, China, the Netherlands and South Africa, a warm Selamat Datang. Your presence brings valuable perspectives and reinforces our shared commitment to safer, more innovative and sustainable road infrastructure.

THE PURPOSE AND THEME OF MRC 2026

4. Since its inception, the Malaysian Road Conference has provided an open platform for exchanging knowledge, testing ideas and turning discussions into practical action. I encourage every participant to make full use of this opportunity to forge partnerships and develop solutions that will shape the future of our roads.
5. Roads have always connected people, goods and opportunities, supporting economic and social progress. The Road Engineering Excellence Award celebrates projects that uphold this purpose through outstanding design, construction and operation, with particular emphasis on innovation, safety, sustainability, energy efficiency and carbon reduction. I look forward to recognising this year's deserving recipients.
6. Our theme, "Transforming the Nation through Future-Ready Roads", captures our ambition to create infrastructure that is resilient, intelligent and sustainable. Through better technology, innovative design and forward-looking planning, we can deliver safer, more efficient and connected journeys. In the spirit of Malaysia MADANI, progress must be measured not only by the roads we build, but also by how well they serve the people.
7. Future-ready infrastructure also requires future-ready talent. I welcome the continued Young Engineers and Professionals (YEP) programme, which nurtures the next generation of technical leaders and supports the aspirations of the National TVET Policy 2030. Our investment in people must advance alongside our investment in infrastructure.

MYJALAN: PUTTING ROAD USERS FIRST

Ladies & Gentlemen,

- 8.** A people-centred approach is at the heart of MYJalan, the Ministry of Works initiative guided by the principle “Jalan Kita, Tanggungjawab Kita” — “Our Roads, Our Responsibility”. It empowers road users to report defects, raise safety concerns and offer constructive feedback, while encouraging shared responsibility for the condition of our roads.
- 9.** Through MYJalan’s “No Wrong Door Policy”, the public can submit road-related complaints without having to determine whether a road is managed by the Federal Government, a state authority, a local council or a highway concessionaire. Complaints are directed to the responsible agency, making public services more accessible, coordinated and responsive.
- 10.** From 1 August 2023 to 31 August 2026, MYJalan received 70,232 complaints. Of these, 22,131 concerned roads under KKR agencies, while 48,101 were referred to local authorities and other relevant agencies. Among the KKR-related complaints, 21,444 — or 96.90 per cent — have been resolved, with the remaining 687 under investigation. These results reinforce the importance of a clear and accountable channel for public feedback.

RESILIENT AND SMARTER ROAD INFRASTRUCTURE

- 11.** Our road network faces growing pressure from traffic demand, ageing assets and higher maintenance costs. Climate-related hazards, including extreme heat, floods and landslides, add to these challenges, alongside the need to consider seismic risks. We must therefore rethink how we design, maintain and protect our roads so that they remain reliable for future generations.

- 12.** Innovation is essential to this effort. The Ministry of Works' Innovation Day 2026 demonstrated how fresh ideas and a culture of continuous improvement can strengthen service delivery. I encourage every agency and industry partner to translate that spirit into practical measures that improve road performance, safety and resilience.
- 13.** The JKR Malaysia Disaster Operations Room, known as BiGBen, has coordinated information on road-related disasters since 2008. Building on this foundation, Sistem eBencana JKR, launched on 11 November 2024, makes information on road conditions and disruptions more accessible while supporting communication and coordination during emergencies.

RMK-13 AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Distinguished guests and fellow delegates,

- 14.** The 13th Malaysia Plan (RMK-13), covering 2026 to 2030, marks an important shift in our infrastructure strategy: from simply building more roads to developing networks that are resilient, intelligent, sustainable and better integrated with economic activity. High-quality road connections remain vital to trade, logistics, tourism, regional integration and rural development.
- 15.** Our priorities include the completion of the Pan Borneo Highway in Sabah and Sarawak, the Sarawak–Sabah Link Road, the Kota Bharu–Kuala Krai Highway (KBKK), and the Lebuhraya Lingkar Tengah Utama (LTU). We will also continue upgrading heavily used federal roads and strengthening access to ports, airports, economic corridors, industrial parks and logistics centres to improve connectivity across the country.
- 16.** These investments must also advance the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. The Ministry of Works remains committed to infrastructure that is safe, efficient, environmentally responsible and socially inclusive. Sustainability must guide the entire life cycle of our roads — from planning and construction to maintenance and operation.

- 17.** This commitment is supported by the National Construction Policy 2030 (NCP 2030), the Malaysian ITS Roadmap 2030, and the Construction Action Plan 2026–2030 (CAP30). Together, these frameworks promote higher productivity, stronger safety and quality standards, the adoption of digital technology and greener construction practices.

VISIT MALAYSIA 2026 AND CLOSING

- 18.** As this conference takes place during Visit Malaysia 2026, I hope our international guests will also discover Malaysia’s cultural heritage, hospitality and attractions. May you return home with not only fresh insights and lasting professional connections, but also fond memories of our country.
- 19.** Ladies and gentlemen, let us make this conference and exhibition a catalyst for meaningful collaboration and practical solutions. I thank the International Road Federation, our organising partners and every delegate for contributing to this important occasion. I wish the conference and congress every success. With that, it is my pleasure to declare the 13th Malaysian Road Conference 2026 and the 6th International Road Federation Global Asia-Pacific Regional Congress officially open.

Thank you.