SPEECH BY

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AT THE OPENING CEREMONY OF

INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTION WEEK (ICW)

& BUILDXPO MALAYSIA 2026

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Salam Sejahtera, Salam Malaysia MADANI, Salam Segulai Sejalai and a very good afternoon.

Salutations to be finalised.

Distinguished guests, ambassadors and high commissioners, industry leaders, representatives of the private sector, government agencies, professional bodies and industry associations, ladies and gentlemen.

1. It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to International Construction Week (ICW) & BuildXpo Malaysia 2026.

2. I thank the Prime Minister for gracing this occasion, and CIDB Malaysia, Qube Integrated Malaysia and all our partners for making it possible. To our international delegates and guests, a warm welcome to Malaysia.

ICW: A PLATFORM FOR THE ENTIRE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

3. This is the 28th edition of ICW and the fourth year of collaboration between CIDB Malaysia and Qube Integrated in organising BuildXpo as its exhibition component.

4. ICW brings together talent, professionals, contractors, developers, policymakers and industry leaders. More than a showcase of products

and technologies, it is a platform to exchange knowledge, build capabilities and address shared challenges.

DEVELOPING THE NEXT GENERATION OF INDUSTRY LEADERS

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Developing the next generation of construction leaders is central to the industry's future. We must encourage more young Malaysians to pursue careers in construction and strengthen their technical skills.

6. ICW supports this goal through the CIDB–Chartered Institute of Building Malaysia (CIOB) Youth Arena, the CIDB–Malaysian Structural Steel Association (MSSA) Open Ideas Competition and the Crane Lifting Planning Competition, organised with the Crane Lifting Planners & Supervisors Association of Malaysia.

7. These initiatives give young people and emerging professionals opportunities to demonstrate their creativity, knowledge and capabilities, while bringing fresh ideas to the industry.

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL ENGAGEMENT

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. Knowledge exchange is another major focus. The Impact Change Through Construction Conference (ICTC) brings international speakers and industry experts together to discuss innovation, sustainability and the transformation of construction.

9. The Asia Construct Conference provides a valuable forum for participating Asian countries to share experiences, learn from one another and identify good practices that can strengthen the regional construction industry.

10. We also welcome BAMBuild, organised by the Public Works Department (JKR) under the theme 'The Future of Sustainable Bamboo Construction'. It explores research, technologies and the potential of bamboo as a construction material.

11. These discussions remind us of the importance of sustainable materials, practical innovation and international cooperation in shaping the future of our built environment.

12. We are pleased to welcome delegates from Singapore, Indonesia, Myanmar, Japan, Comoros, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Hong Kong.

13. We also welcome buyers from Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines and Thailand. Their presence creates valuable opportunities for Malaysian companies to build connections and reach wider markets.

RECOGNISING QUALITY AND PRESERVING OUR BUILT HERITAGE

Ladies and gentlemen,

14. QUEST Day recognises industry players who demonstrate excellence in workmanship, adherence to safety guidelines and sustainable construction practices. Such recognition raises standards and reinforces professionalism.

15. This year's technical visits to Bangunan Sultan Abdul Samad, Seri Negara and the Malaysia Post Office offer participants insights into the care and expertise required to restore heritage buildings.

16. Preserving our built heritage demands specialised knowledge and respect for historical and architectural value. Construction is not only about creating new assets, but also about safeguarding our national identity for future generations.

STRENGTHENING THE INDUSTRY THROUGH COLLABORATION

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. The challenges of productivity, quality, sustainability, technology and workforce development require collective effort. The Ministry of Works will continue working closely with CIDB, JKR, government agencies, professional bodies and industry stakeholders to strengthen our construction sector.

18. I encourage everyone to make full use of ICW and BuildXpo: engage with speakers, explore new technologies, share experiences and develop partnerships that lead to practical cooperation.

CLOSING

19. To our international guests and buyers, I hope this gathering offers valuable insights into Malaysia's construction capabilities and opens doors to lasting partnerships with our local industry.

20. My sincere appreciation once again to CIDB Malaysia, Qube Integrated Malaysia, JKR, our partners, exhibitors, speakers and participants. I wish everyone a productive and successful ICW & BuildXpo Malaysia 2026.

Thank you.