

**OPENING REMARKS AND OFFICIATING SPEECH (PEMUDAH 15TH  
ANNIVERSARY FORUM)**

**RECORDING: 4 FEBRUARY 2022 (FRIDAY), 3.00PM**

**ACTUAL: 7 FEBRUARY 2022 (MONDAY), 8.30 AM – 11.00 AM**

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**YBhg. Tan Sri Dato' Seri Mohd Zuki bin Ali**

Chief Secretary to the Government

**YBhg. Dato' Dr. Ir. Andy Seo Kian Haw**

PEMUDAH Co-Chair

**YBhg. Dato' Abdul Latif bin Haji Abu Seman**

Director General

Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC)

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and Salam Sejahtera

1. It is a pleasure to be here at this online forum in conjunction with PEMUDAH's 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Public-Private Sector Dialogues have always played an important role in promoting national development in our country. PEMUDAH or the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business was established on 7th February 2007 to provide a platform to further improve the ease of doing business. PEMUDAH's functions include:

- Reviewing existing regulations and proposing improvements;
  - Benchmarking best practices; and
  - Enhancing collaboration between the public and private sector.
2. The theme for this forum today is “Past lessons, future excellence, and productivity breakthrough”. This forum will highlight PEMUDAH’s role as a public-private collaborative platform in improving Malaysia’s business environment to further drive economic growth and achieve high-income nation status by the year 2025.
3. I would like to congratulate PEMUDAH on reaching this milestone and commend PEMUDAH members as well as Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) for their continued efforts in building a more conducive ecosystem for businesses to grow over the years. In this connection, I am pleased to acknowledge PEMUDAH’s role in elevating Malaysia’s global competitiveness.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. In the 15 years since PEMUDAH was established, Malaysia has become a more attractive investment destination. PEMUDAH’s initiatives have vastly contributed towards the adoption of international best practices. Let me share a few of PEMUDAH’s achievements:
- Through PEMUDAH’s efforts, Malaysia has made progress in terms of ease of doing business. Among our notable

achievements include improvements made in dealing with construction permits.

- Malaysia's global competitiveness improved in 2021. As reported by the International Institute for Management Development (IMD) in The World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY) 2021, Malaysia had moved up two places from 27th in 2020 to 25th, among 64 economies.
- In relation to the private healthcare industry, regulatory experimentation was successfully conducted to reduce the duration of time for private hospitals to obtain the operating license, significantly from 800 to 300 days. By leveraging on digital technology and ready-to-build drawing, the goal is to reduce this further to 100 days.
- In 2020 and 2021, PEMUDAH collaborated with the Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture (MOTAC) to relax several requirements related to tour operating businesses. The revised requirements have helped the tourism industry players to manage operating costs and minimise compliance costs.
- In collaboration with several technical agencies in the construction sector, PEMUDAH successfully cleared the regulatory backlog and enabled businesses which have been impacted by COVID-19 to restart their businesses faster. This intervention is estimated to yield 1.75 billion ringgit in compliance cost savings annually.

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. The Twelfth Malaysia Plan (12<sup>th</sup>MP) targets Malaysia to be among the top nine economies in the Government Efficiency Sub-Index of the WCY.
6. In this connection, PEMUDAH is expected to play an important role in assisting the Government to strengthen Business Legislation and enhance Government Efficiency. With the support of MITI, local authorities, the Economic Planning Unit and MPC, I trust PEMUDAH will deliver on its mandate to further strengthen business legislation.
7. In moving towards high income nation status, the quality of our regulations must be further improved. Our regulations must have the following features:
  - First, responsive and agile towards current needs;
  - Second, transparent in formulation and delivery; and
  - Third, inclusive and comprehensive.
8. PEMUDAH has played an important role in the last 15 years. Moving forward, PEMUDAH must leverage its platform to make Malaysia an even more attractive investment destination. Once again, I would like to congratulate PEMUDAH for its 15th anniversary. With that, I officially open the PEMUDAH 15th Anniversary Forum – commemorating 15 years of success in Malaysia's economy. Thank you.