

**OPENING REMARK BY
YBHG. DATO 'JUNAIDAH BINTI KAMARRUDDIN
DIRECTOR GENERAL OF
THE LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION (BHEUU)
PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT**

IN CONJUNCTION WITH

**NATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS:
“TOWARDS A MALAYSIAN NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON BUSINESS AND
HUMAN RIGHTS”**

**MONDAY, 24 JUNE 2019
SAKSAMA HALL,
THE LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION (BHEUU)
PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT**

Bismillaahir rahmaanir rahiim.

Assalaamu`alaikum Warahmatullaahi Wabarakaatuh,

Good Morning, *Salam Sejahtera* and *Salam Sayangi Malaysiaku.*

Honorable Yang Berhormat Datuk Liew Vui Keong
Minister in The Prime Minister's Department (Law)

Your Excellency, Mr Stefan Priesner
United Nations (UN) Resident Coordinator for Malaysia

Yang Berusaha, Dr Cheah Swee Neo
Secretary of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia;

Your Excellencies, Participants

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. On behalf of the Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department, let me, first of all wish you a very warm welcome to the **NATIONAL HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON BUSINESS & HUMAN RIGHTS: "TOWARDS A**

MALAYSIAN NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS”

Ladies and gentlemen,

2. At the core of the human rights concept are shared values like dignity, fairness, equality, respect and independence. Although it has always been emphasised that it is the duty of the state to protect human rights, to ensure its respect and remedy, other actors such as businesses also play important roles and need to be mindful of the impact of their activities on human rights. On the other hand, it must be appreciated that businesses and companies will also benefit from operating in an environment where human rights are respected.

3. It is with this awareness that the government through the Legal Affairs Division of the Prime Minister’s Department is hosting today’s event in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Faculty of Law and the Institute of Malaysian and International Studies (IKMAS) of Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), and the Malaysian Centre for Constitutionalism and Human Rights (MCCHR).

4. This event is an important and significant one which brings together business leaders, regulators, investor organisations, civil society and other stakeholders in understanding, raising awareness, and sharing the importance Human Rights in business.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. The government is considering developing a National Action Plan for Business and Human Rights for Malaysia. Although we all understand that this may be a long and winding process, nevertheless, we are glad that there are key stakeholders who have pledged their commitment to play significant roles in assisting us. We see today's Dialogue as a beginning of more sessions and consultations to come from which we hope to garner ideas and feedbacks from all parties including government agencies, businesses, NGO's and CSO's throughout the course of developing the Action Plan for Malaysia.

6. The government believes that we will be able to develop a suitable National Action Plan specifically for Malaysia based on our own uniqueness and peculiarities and we cannot do this without sufficient consultation and buy in, from all stakeholders.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Today's event is invaluable in enabling us to share and exchange information with experts both domestically and internationally. This is also an avenue for us to build and strengthen a multi-stakeholder platform amongst key actors whose interest lie in the area of Human Rights and Business. So, please take this golden opportunity to develop and enrich your knowledge.

8. Before I conclude, I would like again to express my sincere appreciation to the organisers and committee members involved in coordinating this event. My heartfelt gratitude also goes to the speakers of today's event, thank you for making your time to be here. On that note, I wish you a fruitful and productive dialogue.

Thank you.

*Wabillaahittaufik Walhidaayah Wassalaamu`alaikum Warahmatullaahi
Wabarakaatuh.*

Prepared by:

Legal Affairs Division

Prime Minister's Department