



OPENING SPEECH

BY

**YBHG. DATUK HAJI MOHD RABIN BIN BASIR
DIRECTOR GENERAL
LEGAL AFFAIRS DIVISION, PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT**

FOR

**NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
2021: TOWARDS A NATIONAL ACTION PLAN**

ON

21 SEPTEMBER 2021 (TUESDAY)

SALUTATION

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

**Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh dan Salam
Sejahtera.**

YBhg. Tan Sri Othman bin Hashim

Chairman of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM)

Mr. Niloy Banerjee

Resident Representative of UNDP Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei
Darussalam

YBhg. Prof. Dato' Dr. Aishah Hj. Bidin

BHR Advisor and Professor of Law, Academy of Sciences Malaysia

Excellences, Panelist, Moderators, Distinguished Guest, Ladies and
Gentlemen.

1. First of all, I would like to welcome all delegates and participants to
the National Conference on Business and Human Rights: Towards

Malaysia's National Action Plan. I also hope all of you are coping well during this difficult time.

2. The Government acknowledges that the issues on business and human rights continues to gain momentum internationally. As a developing country that aspires to become a high-income nation, Malaysia recognizes the important role of the corporate sector in the development of the nation.

3. The Government's announcement to develop its National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP-BHR) clearly demonstrates Malaysia's commitment in intensifying efforts to further strengthen the application of the United Nation Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs).

4. The development of Malaysia's NAP-BHR now falls under the auspices of Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Law and Parliamentary Affairs) based on the decision by the Cabinet on 6th December 2019 and development of this NAP is currently supported by the Legal Affairs Division, Prime Minister's Department (BHEUU,JPM).

5. As the focal agency, BHEUU had conducted several engagement sessions with various stakeholders to ensure inclusivity in the holistic development of the NAPBHR. The government identified several pertinent thematic areas relating to Business and Human Rights in Malaysia and currently in the process of establishing the governance mechanism needed for this development.

6. The first Steering Committee meeting was held on 6th July 2021 chaired by the former Minister in Prime Minister's Department (Parliament and Law), YB Datuk Seri Takiyuddin bin Hassan. Pursuant to the meeting, three Technical Committees was agreed to be established to look at various BHR issues in Malaysia. The Technical Committees are led by Ministry of Human Resource (MOHR) looking into labor issues, Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) looking into environmental issues and The National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC) looking into issues pertaining to governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen.

7. This entire process will start with the development of a National Baseline Assessment (NBA) for Malaysia which will be done with the aim to identify the gaps and the current state of affairs in relations to BHR in

Malaysia. During this process, BHEUU and other relevant agencies will continuously conduct engagement sessions with stakeholders in order to ensure that the development of NAPBHR takes into account the suggestions and opinions of various parties and can be developed holistically and comprehensively.

8. I hope that the development of NAPBHR could assist the government in reducing and controlling the issues related to human rights violations mainly due to business activities. And I hope that businesses become more aware of their responsible business conduct to ensure that human rights violations are reduced.

9. On behalf of BHEUU, I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest appreciation to Ministry of Human Resource, Ministry of Environment and Water, National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption, Suruhanjaya Hak Asasi Manusia Malaysia (SUHAKAM) and United Nation Development Program (UNDP) for the support and cooperation given throughout the development process of NAPBHR. Without the support from these parties, it is unlikely that we will be able to conduct a comprehensive consultation session as today's conference.

Thank you !!!

10. Last but not least, I hope that all the delegates attending this conference for two day starting from today would be able to actively participate and share their opinions. This session is also is expected to be a platform for all stakeholders to establish strategic relationships with each other.

Thank you once again and have a wonderful conference.

Prepared by :

**Legal Affairs Division
Prime Minister's Department
Putrajaya**