

**WELCOMING SPEECH AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
DERADICALISATION AND COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM**

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Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

A very good morning and Salam 1Malaysia.

*Yang Amat Berhormat* Dato' Seri Mohd Najib Tun Abdul Razak, Prime Minister of Malaysia,

Honourable Ministers, Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Ministry of Home Affairs, allow me to extend our heartfelt gratitude to *Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohd Najib*, Prime Minister of Malaysia for gracing us with your presence here at the International Conference on Deradicalisation and Countering Violent Extremism.

I would also like to welcome all Ministers and representatives of participating countries, speakers and the Conference participants. Thank you for making the long journey to attend this Conference.

To all speakers, thank you very much for your participation in the plenary sessions. I am convinced that, there is so much we can learn from each other through the sharing of experiences, best practices, and the exchange of ideas and approaches in deradicalisation and rehabilitation programmes.

To all Conference participants, we hope you will take away from this conference the necessary tools and methods to further supplement your existing programmes in deradicalisation and also share with us your ideas and thoughts on the subject.

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri,

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The decision to hold this Conference was officially announced during a Special ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Rise of Radicalisation and Violent Extremism on October 2nd, last year.

This Conference is to serve as a platform for the sharing of experiences and best practices among participating countries in addressing radicalisation and violent extremism.

The timing couldn't be more fitting as very recently the world, particularly this region and precisely our neighbour Indonesia, was rocked with a terrorist attack that killed innocent peoples.

The attack in Jakarta on January 14 was a despicable act and Malaysia strongly condemns the act.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Terrorism and violent extremism must be looked at, with a renewed urgency. A new and more comprehensive approach is needed in view of the constantly changing nature of terrorism and radical activities.

Malaysia has taken various steps to address this threat. We have strengthened our legislation and intensified the operations of local law enforcement, intelligence and security forces.

On top of that, we have also widened our international cooperation. It is now the time for us to enhance this cooperation and the effectiveness of our deradicalisation and rehabilitation programmes.

Rehabilitating terrorists and extremists meanwhile, is a dynamic process. It means that our methods and approaches must constantly be reviewed and improved upon.

Terrorists carried out the attacks in various forms. While some openly revealed themselves and daringly carried out attacks in the open, it is those who became suicide bombers are fast becoming a bigger threat.

It is because they could disguise as anyone. They could move around as tourists, office workers, ordinary people, factory workers, students and even preachers.

The materials they used to make bombs could be sourced even from the very vicinity they planned to attack. The manual to make a deadly explosive can also be obtained on-line.

It is indeed, a great challenge for us to be several steps ahead of them. In this regard, the exchange of ideas and experiences is crucial. It is our hope that the tone of cooperation and mutual sharing, developed in this conference will continue in the years to come.

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Before I conclude, allow me to once again thank Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohd Najid for officiating the opening of this conference and for supporting our cause in eradicating terrorism altogether.

Thank you.

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