

THE GRAND OPENING OF CYBERSECURITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (CCoE)

By : DATO' SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM

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SPEECH

**YAB DATO' SERI ANWAR BIN IBRAHIM
PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**

**THE GRAND OPENING OF
CYBERSECURITY CENTER OF EXCELLENCE (CCoE)**

**26 MARCH 2024 (TUESDAY), 1.45 PM
CCoE, CYBERJAYA**

SALUTATIONS

1. The Honourable Mrs. Mary Ng
Minister of Export Promotion, International Trade and Economic
Development of Canada

2. Yang Berhormat Fahmi Fadzil
Minister of Communications

3. YBhg. Datuk Mohamad Fauzi bin Md. Isa
Secretary-General, Ministry of Communication

4. YM Raja Dato' Nurshirwan Zainal Abidin
Director General, National Security Council

5. Yang Berusaha Tan Sri Mohamad Salim bin Fateh Din
Chairman, Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission
(MCMC)

6. Mr. John J. Giamatteo
Chief Executive Officer, BlackBerry

7. Representatives of the industry and ecosystem,

8. Distinguished guests,

9. Members of the media,

10. Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Malaysia
MADANI.

1. It has been said that there is a tide in our affairs which, taken at the flood,
leads on to fortune;

Omitted, our voyage will be bound in shallows and in miseries.

2. Today, is the day we seize that moment, indeed a defining moment with the establishment of the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence (CCoE), a testament to our unwavering commitment to strengthen the nation's cybersecurity capabilities and capacities.

3. Being more than a facility to help train and upskill our national workforce, the CCoE has the potential to be an international destination to address emerging cyber threats. We can bring together Malaysian and Canadian universities, research institutions and skilled practitioners to share knowledge, threat intelligence, and jointly develop methods and strategies to strengthen national and regional cyber-resilience.

4. The CCoE is a milestone in our journey towards creating a robust cybersecurity ecosystem, necessitating strong partnerships across the public and private sectors.

5. Towards a more secure digital environment, we can collaborate to develop plans that encourage information sharing and expertise exchange between government agencies, and other stakeholders including sharing actionable threat intelligence.

6. We commend Blackberry for helping to upskill our next generation of cyber-defenders, accelerating our goal to bolster national and regional security and innovation. Malaysia has a shortfall of 12,000 cybersecurity professionals. We need 25,000 workers in cybersecurity by 2025.

7. We envision this center as a capacity-building hub for the Southeast Asian region, with a specific focus on enhancing threat intelligence sharing, and fostering regional cooperation in mitigating cybersecurity threats and combating cybercrime.

8. As the chosen location for the establishment of the CCoE, Malaysia aims to deliver upon our shared goal to establish a globally competitive skills and learning ecosystem in the IndoPacific region.

9. Forging international partnerships, specifically those harnessing advanced technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning, assumes importance in the positive growth of our economy's trajectory.

10. Through this strategic collaboration, we not only stimulate economic advancement and prosperity but also bolster the resilience of our cybersecurity infrastructure against the risks that pervade the digital landscape, by keeping the nation's data, conversations, and citizens safe.

11. The Government has been working tirelessly to attract Foreign Direct Investment chalking up RM329.5 billion in 2023, an all-time high, which bodes well for 2024 and reflects the increasing confidence investors have in Malaysia.

12. These efforts will ultimately create high value job opportunities for the people, in tandem with the Ekonomi MADANI: Memperkasa Rakyat. Under this Framework, the Government has also introduced numerous initiatives to help accelerate the growth of enterprises and services to significantly enhance their productivity as well as grow Malaysia's cybersecurity competencies in the digital domain.

13. As of February 2024, 5G roll out in Malaysia has reached 80.3% coverage in populated areas and Internet coverage has reached 97.07% in populated areas respectively in Malaysia. The communications connectivity will continue to catalyse digital transformation, specifically those industry verticals such as manufacturing, health care, warehousing, agriculture and more, in addition to spurring the growth of data centers and cloud services.

14. Today, we also celebrate the graduation of the first cohort of upskilled cyber defenders, trained by the SANS Institute and BlackBerry. This achievement is a direct reflection of the CCoE's immediate impact, contributing to the elevation of cybersecurity skills and fostering a culture of innovation and professional networking.

15. Going forward, the landmark collaboration today will be vital in fortifying cybersecurity and ensuring data sovereignty for Malaysia. With that, dengan lafaz Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, I am pleased to officiate the Cybersecurity Center of Excellence.

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh.

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