

**SPEECH TEXT BY YAB PRIME MINISTER: VISIT MALAYSIA 2026
LAUNCHING**

By : DATO' SERI ANWAR IBRAHIM

Venue : HOTEL CASA DEL RIO, MELAKA

Date : 27/09/2025

SPEECH BY

**YAB DATUK SERI ANWAR BIN IBRAHIM PRIME MINISTER OF
MALAYSIA**

AT

VISIT MALAYSIA 2026 LAUNCHING

27TH SEPTEMBER 2025 (SATURDAY) | 8.00 PM

ENCORE MELAKA

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh dan salam sejahtera

Alhamdulillah rabbil 'alamin,

Nahmahduhu wa nuṣalli 'ala rasulihil-karim,

Wa'ala alihi wa ṣahbihi ajma'in.

Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Seri Setia Dr. Haji Mohd Ali bin Mohd Rustam,

Yang di-Pertua Negeri Melaka;

Yang Amat Berbahagia Toh Puan Datuk Wira Hajah Asmah binti Abdul Rahman;

Saudara Ketua Menteri Melaka, Datuk Seri Utama Ab Rauf bin Yusoh;

Saudara Menteri Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya,

Dato' Sri Tiong King Sing;

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Shamsul Azri bin Abu Bakar,

Ketua Setiausaha Negara;

Dr. Kao Kim Hourn,

Setiausaha Agung ASEAN;

Rakan-Rakan Menteri dari ASEAN dan juga Menteri -Menteri dari negara-negara sahabat yang turut bersama;

Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Melaka dan Ahli-Ahli Mesyuarat Kerajaan Negeri Melaka; dan

Rakan-rakan yang saya muliakan.

1. Alhamdulillah, kita syukur kepada Allah S.W.T., pada malam ini keputusan kita memberikan kesempatan kepada Melaka menunjukkan kehebatan mereka. Bijak laksana Hang Tuah, berani laksana Jebat. Betul terbukti Datuk Seri Utama Ab Rauf bin Yusoh. Saya salute dan tahniah atas kejayaan.
2. Dan ini kerana kerjasama negeri, kerjasama swasta, kerjasama rakyat, Persatuan Seni Budaya, Melaka dan Kementerian Pelancongan, Seni dan Budaya, Dato' Sri Tiong King Sing, dan seluruh jentera kementerian yang menunjukkan ada keupayaan. Jadi keputusan kita, saya rasa tepat. Kerana tidak banyak negeri, Ketua Menteri, tidak banyak negeri yang mampu menganjurkan acara Peluncuran Tahun Melawat Malaysia sehebat Melaka. Mana lagi?

3. Satu penghormatan. Kita tengok bukan saja budaya seni. Orang salah faham. Pelancongan ini ada kaitan ekonomi, ada kaitan penyegaran budaya dan seni, ada kaitan dengan perpaduan di kalangan masyarakat, ada kegiatan makan minum yang menunjukkan kepelbagaian kita. Jadi oleh itu, saya bagi pihak Kerajaan Malaysia merasa bangga dan ucap tahniah dan setuju dengan peluncuran ini dan menjadikan Melaka ini sebagai satu tarikan istimewa yang unik dari segi sejarahnya, dari segi kesegarannya dan dari segi budaya seni yang dapat dipamerkan kepada rakyat dan kepada dunia pelancongan antarabangsa.
4. Hari ini dan malam ini ada juga kekecualian, pengecualian acara kerana Melaka ini negara bersejarah. Ramai anak-anak muda yang lupa bahawa zaman Kesultanan Melayu Melaka itu zaman agung kepulauan Melayu. Kepintaran negara hukum, kepintaran mentadbir dengan baik, kejayaan menjadikan Melaka ini sebagai negara kosmopolitan yang menjadi wilayah yang boleh menarik perdagangan antarabangsa.
5. Dikupas oleh pelbagai sejarawan tentang kehebatan Melaka ini. Tetapi pada malam ini, atas ikhtiar Kerajaan Negeri Melaka, Datuk Seri Utama Ab Rauf bin Yusoh, kita perkenalkan apa yang dihebahkan dalam sejarah tentang peranan Magellan, yang sebenarnya bertapak selepas Melaka dijatuhkan dengan kejam oleh bala tentera Portugis sebagai penjajah yang telah memusnahkan Kesultanan Melayu-Islam Melaka, memusnahkan budaya dan harga diri.

6. Walhal, terbukti bukan sahaja Magellan, tetapi dalam rombongan itu muncul seorang tokoh dari Melaka yang Magellan sebut sebagai Enrique de Melaka dan dicatat dalam tulisan tangannya, wasiat terakhir Magellan yang tertera di muzium khas yang diluncurkan tadi, bahawa Enrique dari Melaka tentu sahaja namanya nama Islam asal. Tetapi dengan wasiat kematian Magellan, Enrique de Melaka akan bebas dan bergerak, walaupun ada bahan sejarah mengatakan dia meninggal di Cebu, Filipina. Ada yang mengatakan dia sempat pulang ke Melaka. Itu kerja sejarah, kajian sejarah yang belum selesai.

7. Tapi yang penting, Harun Abdul Rashid, novelis sejarah Melayu, telah menulis tentang Hikayat Panglima Awang yang menunjukkan hebatnya orang Melaka, pintarnya orang Melaka. Seorang pendekar dan hulubalang yang dirampas dan dijadikan hamba abdi, naik kapal Magellan tetapi masih menunjukkan kehebatannya sehingga diangkat kedudukannya berdampingan dengan Magellan mengelilingi dunia. Inilah sejarah anak Melayu Melaka yang kita banggakan.

Excellency, ladies and gentlemen,

8. Thank you very much for giving the support to the initiative by the Ministry of Tourism and the State Government of Malacca. I mentioned the uniqueness of Malacca. This is not a normal tourist destination. Malacca is unique in the Malay Archipelago with its history of the great Muslim Malay Sultanate of Malacca, where Muslim rule was established, attracting trade investments from as far

as Venice to Spain and Portugal, and became one of the great cosmopolitan and trading centers in the world, written by notable historians.

9. But what is especially unique tonight is for us to tell a story of what is deemed by historians as the reconstruction of Malaysian history. History should not be written by the colonial masters. History must not be dictated by the West. History must represent the true facts of Malaysia and what Malaysians should know.

10. Based on facts and research for the past many many years. I remember as far back as 1961, one of our notable sociologists, Professor Syed Hussein Alatas, wrote a very pertinent piece in the Asian Historians Conference, where he said he wanted to be truthful to our country, our legacy. Our history must not be dictated by our colonial masters. Our history must not be subjugated as written about slaves. In this country, we had a civilization. We had an opportunity to be a major trading partner. We engaged with the West, we engaged with the East, with the Chinese Kingdom, with representatives of the Chinese Emperor, with Admiral Zheng He, we called him Admiral Cheng Ho. And we also had the occasion to know Princess Hang Li Po, represented by Fan Bing Bing just now.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

11. I know this is a Tourism Night, Dato Tiong King Sing, but I want to present to you the vibrancy of the culture of Malacca. Of course, I

come from Penang. I'm a proud Penang, but I have to admit in all honesty, while Penang can contribute a lot, but Malacca is unique because it has a historical might that is unrivalled in the region.

12. And we introduce, if you have the time, please just adjust to this building the story of Magellan. Everybody knows 1511, we were colonized. We were a great Islamic civilization, centre of good governance. We know how to rule and engage with the world. They tell us now that globalization is a recent feature. What nonsense! What Admiral Zheng He (Cheng Ho) did was indeed globalization. What the Arab civilizations of the past did, was it not civilization, globalization? What Malacca was the last few hundred years was certainly globalization. You trade within the region. You accept the region as one whole Malay Archipelago. We had strong engagements with the Thai Kingdom, to Ayutthaya, to the West, to the East, to China, and to the many civilizations in the West.
13. Wasn't that globalization? Why is it Western scholars come and tell us that you learn about globalization only in the last 200 years? That is why reconstruction of Malaysian history is important. Our universities, our schools must be able to see Malacca, history of Malacca, the vibrancy of our culture including tourism. That's why I decided that Malacca be the host for Malaysian Tourism Year 2026.
14. Thank you, Excellencies, Ministers, not to listen to my lecture tonight, but to honour us with your presence and to realize that Melaka is a great tourist destination. And that is why we place the importance of

World Tourism Day, here. Because the uniqueness again, as I said, in the region is unrivalled.

15. The volume of work, unfortunately, most of it destroyed when Stamford Raffles brought most of the artifacts, collection of documents and reports to the ship. And the ship sunk somewhere. And this is the great tragedy for us.
16. Thank you, Chief Minister Datuk Seri Utama Ab Rauf bin Yusoh, for continuing this effort. You have all the support of the Federal Government to continue this journey of Enrique de Malacca. And make sure that you emerge not only as a major tourist destination, a vibrant culture multi-racial, multi-religious where Malays, Chinese, Indians, Kadazans, and Ibans. As you see the performance from Sarawak, from Sabah, and that is Malaysia. There's no one performance that represents one segment. Any cultural performance will represent the vibrancy of our culture.
17. And I, as a Malaysian, take great pride in showing that Malaysia is a great multi-racial, multi-religious country. Although Islam is the religion of the Federation, and with that spirit, terima kasih tuan-tuan, saudara-saudara yang dimuliakan mendengar kuliah pendek saya dan saya dengan **lafaz 'bismillahirrahmanirrahim'** **meluncurkan Tahun Melawat Malaysia 2026.**

Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

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