

**TIMBALAN PERDANA MENTERI**

**YAB DATO' SERI DR WAN AZIZAH BINTI WAN ISMAIL**

**DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**

**CUM**

**MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

AIRASIA LIL STAR CHILDCARE CENTRE

Tarikh: Sel, 09/18/2018 - 12:00

Selasa, September/18/2018

Tempat: AIRASIA (REDQ) LAPANGAN TERBANG ANTARABANGSA, KLIA 2

Assalamualaikum wbt dan salam sejahtera.

Hadirin sekalian,

Terima kasih saya ucapkan kepada pihak AirAsia atas jemputan ke majlis pelancaran ini.

Saya turut difahamkan terdapat peserta dari luar negara pada hari ini. Jadi, izinkan saya meneruskan ucapan dalam Bahasa Inggeris.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be here today at AirAsia's RedQ Office. Thank you for your warm welcome.

1. I would like to take this opportunity to firstly congratulate AirAsia for being named the "World's Best Low Cost Airline" for 10 consecutive years.

2. I was told this award is dubbed the “Oscars of the Aviation Industry”, which is the global benchmark of airline excellence, with over 20.36 million customers surveyed worldwide, measuring standards across 49 key performance indicators of an airline’s frontline products and services.

To come up top is not an easy feat, but to maintain the same position for 10 consecutive years is a remarkable achievement, not just for AirAsia’s staff, but also for Malaysia as a country.

3. I believe such successes are only achievable when the workforce of an organisation is passionate about their work and gives their level best in everything they do.

On the other hand, it is the company’s responsibility to ensure that levels of competency, efficiency and performance are continuously enhanced and upgraded so that the company will be able to maintain its world-class status in this highly competitive regional and global industry.

One key element to ensure this is to provide peace of mind to working parents in the organisation so that they are able to perform their duties knowing their children are well taken care of and are in a safe environment.

4. Today, I am pleased to officiate the AirAsia Lil Star Childcare Centre, and I applaud AirAsia for taking care of its employees’ wellbeing by providing a child care centre for their employees who are parents, in addition to the many other facilities made available in this building.

5. With the fast-growing economy and current lifestyles, it is now normal for both parents to be working. I’m glad to see organisations such as AirAsia being sensitive to this need and stepping up to provide a solution to ease the burden of parents at work.

6. Just last month, I attended the National Childcare Centre Day 2018 and shared with the participants that Malaysia needs to have at least 38,333 registered childcare centres in the country to cater to the number of children under 4-years of age who need childcare. As of June 2018, there were only 4,302 childcare centres registered with the Department of Social Welfare.

7. Data from the Welfare Department shows that up to June this year, the number of childcare workers looking after children four years and below is around 16,873. Of this number, only 3,173 have the minimum qualification of attending a childcare course named "Kursus Asuhan Permata".

This is an issue which needs urgent attention. I hope more private organisations will start looking into setting up in-house childcare centres. The government fully supports this initiative and provides tax-exemptions for this purpose which can be redeemed by employers (based on a February 15, 1996 circular from the Inland Revenue Board). These include tax exemptions for the renovation and maintenance of buildings meant for daycare centres.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. As the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, I am also pleased to know that AirAsia is not only an organisation that believes in gender equality, but celebrates women and their achievements.

I was told there are many women here occupying top management roles as well as working in the operation fields such as those in the roles of pilots, engineers, in ramp (ground services) as well as in security. It gives me great pleasure to meet all of you today.

9. I was also informed that in addition to providing equal opportunities for female employees to grow, AirAsia has also created a campaign called #GirlsCanDoAnything to empower young female talents to realise their dreams.

I hope you will continue to conduct programmes where teenagers are invited to meet AirAsia's female pilots, engineers and senior management staff for motivational sharing sessions. Such an initiative will go a long way.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. I would once again like to record my appreciation to AirAsia's management and employees for a very warm welcome to AirAsia RedQ, which I must say, is a very unique office.

This must be the secret to the thousands of passionate "all stars" here and the palpable high energy felt all around.

Knowing one has the care and support of the company - both professionally and personally-makes a difference.

Without further ado, I hereby declare open the AirAsia Lil Star Child Care Centre. Thank you and have a great afternoon everyone.

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