

MALAYSIA SOCIAL MEDIA WEEK 2017

By : YAB. DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB BIN TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK, PERDANA
MENTERI MALAYSIA

Venue : BERJAYA TIMES SQUARE, KUALA LUMPUR

Date : 08/11/2017

Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim,

Alhamdulillah Rabbil A'lamin wa bihi Nasta'in

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh,

Salam Sejahtera dan Salam 1Malaysia,

Yang Berusaha Saudara Shahul Hameed

Presiden, Social Media Chambers, Malaysia

Alhamdulillah, dimulai segalanya dengan mengatur rasa syukur setinggi tingginya ke hadrat Allah SWT, yang telah dengan Izin Rahmat dan Kurniannya, memungkinkan kita bertemu sempena Minggu Media Sosial Malaysia untuk tahun 2017.

Pertamanya, kita ingin merakamkan ucapan terimakasih kepada Yang Berusaha Saudara Shahul Hameed selaku Presiden Social Media Chambers dan rakan-rakannya dalam majlis tertnggi SMC diatas pengajuranMSMW 2017 ini, yang Sesungguhnya merupakan acara social media terbesar yang dianjurkan pihak swasta dan penyertaan dari pengamal social media tempatan dan atarabangsa.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Malaysia's digital journey has been carefully planned. Back in 2012 we embarked on a national programme based on three strategic thrusts to advance the country towards becoming a developed digital economy by 2020.

2. Those three critical game changers were:

3. To Move Malaysia from being supply-focused to being demand-focused, in order to leverage our existing infrastructure, economic activity, market trends and consumer behaviour;

4. To shift from being consumption-centric to being production-centric, by encouraging and enabling internet users to produce as much as they consume from digital technologies;

5. And to evolve from being a low knowledge-add economy to being a high knowledge-add economy, by increasing the development of local talent in key industries so that we produce lots of our own innovators and knowledge workers, rather than relying on others.

6. Clear targets have been set and worked towards, such as Malaysia raising its ICT contribution to 17 percent of Gross National Income; and raising our position in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Digital Economy Rankings to be within the top 20.

7. We have made huge efforts and formulated many plans in order to work towards these goals. For instance Malaysia has rolled out implementation on Asian e-fulfilment hubs; e-payment services for small and medium businesses and microenterprises; shared cloud enterprise services; micro-sourcing for income generation; accelerated international trade through e-commerce, on-demand customised online education; growing the embedded systems industry; and mobile digital wallets.

8. Just last week, Jack Ma and I launched the world's first Digital Free Trade Zone in Malaysia, with more than 1,970 export-ready SMEs onboard. The KLIA Aeropolis DFTZ Park is Alibaba's first regional eFulfillment hub outside China, and is expected to double the growth of Malaysia's air cargo volume from the current level of about 700,000 tonnes a year to 1.3 million tonnes a year within a decade.

9. Jack praised Malaysia for being not just talk, but action. He said, and I quote: "So many countries say they want to do something for small businesses. Malaysia is the country that made the first move to actually make this happen."

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. Just as we are proud of our work with the DFTZ, so we have belief in the further effects of our pro-digital policy on the country. An estimated investment value of RM31.2 billion is expected to be generated from Digital Malaysia based on the Public-Private-Partnership model.

11. This will have real effects on Malaysia and bring real benefits to families in terms of employment and rising standards of living. For it is expected to create 160,000 jobs and increase the overall contribution of the Digital Economy to our Gross National Income to RM294 billion by 2020.

12. And we can have confidence in these predictions, because this Government laid out plans before, soon after I took office. We launched the Economic Transformation Programme in 2010 - and it has delivered.

13. 2.26 million new jobs, of which over 1 million are high income. An increase in Gross National Income of nearly 50 percent. Years of healthy growth, even when global conditions have been extremely difficult. Low inflation and unemployment, and a deficit we have reduced from 6.7 percent in 2009 to 3 percent this year.

So, ladies and gentlemen,

14. When I say that the Malaysian government, through the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation, or MDEC, also aims to thrust Malaysia into the first rank of digital economies through the creation of Digital Hubs - we mean it!

15. The plans include adapting and diversifying the MSC Malaysia Cyber Centres. These new Digital Hubs will aim to encourage more venues to be optimised for MSC Malaysia corporates, yet be able to support start up ecosystems with the necessary hard infrastructure offerings - such as high speed broadband - to enable growth of the Internet economy.

16. Currently, there are three MSC Malaysia Cybercities that meet the standards of international hi-tech investors, including Cyberjaya, Midvalley and BangsarSouth.

17. As it is, through the continuing efforts of the Government and MDEC, Malaysia has risen to become one of the leading e-commerce markets, generating a revenue of US\$2.3 billion last year alone.

18. With this in mind, we must strive to exceed our 2020 economic contribution target and intensify our efforts in innovating, accessing and adopting the use of digital technologies to build a brighter future for ourselves and our nation.

19. The successes we have achieved so far have also been enabled by ensuring that the digital economy is inclusive - that all Malaysians have the opportunity to reap the benefits of the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

20. The eRezeki programme launched in 2015 allows B40 individuals to register as digital workers and perform simple digital-based tasks to generate additional, trustworthy income.

21. With the aim of developing a conducive crowd-sourcing ecosystem in Malaysia, eRezeki profiles, trains, assesses, and qualifies individuals to benefit from the digital economy. We also work hand in hand with local and global organisations seeking to tap into Malaysia crowd-labour talents.

22. Meanwhile, the eUsahawan programme connects Malaysian youth and micro-entrepreneurs to public Technical and Vocational Education and Training, or TVET institutions, to develop their digital entrepreneurship know-how, and to enable their transition from being job seekers to being job creators.

23. Over the last two years, the eRezeki and eUsahawan programmes have proven to be crucial in laying a solid foundation for the development of Malaysia's Digital Economy by engaging with and educating our nation's key current and future economic contributors.

24. This is in line with our determination to develop the local talent pool. In 2016 the Government launched the #mydigitalmaker movement, an initiative to create a nation of digital makers.

25. In partnership with the Ministry of Education, and with the support of the private sector and academia, this will expose Malaysian youth to the creative and innovative aspects of digital technology through the integration of Computational Thinking and Computer Science into the formal school curriculum; as well as making sure that industry and our universities are helping nurture and encourage talented young digital makers through extra-curricular activities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

26. For Malaysia to build a vibrant Digital Economy, and If we want the employment rate in the digital sector in Malaysia to surpass the global average by

2025, our people are the key drivers - which is why we have specific initiatives targeted at key communities such as youth, SMEs, digital entrepreneurs and the B40.

27. This growth will be spurred by continuous investment and robust development. The Government, along with all stakeholders like the Social Media Chambers, will work to design strategies and promote comprehensive efforts to facilitate this transition.

28. As Malaysia now boldly advances into the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the services and manufacturing sectors continue to be crucial to our future growth - which is why we have allocated funds in excess of RM1 billion to spur activity and development in these sectors through digital economy initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

29. Malaysia Social Media Week is not just about social media. Indeed, I was asked to speak to you today about Malaysia's digital transformation. But I would like to address the role of social media specifically as well.

30. More than 20 million Malaysians are active on social media, and I know how useful it can be in promoting dialogue. As you know, I am on Facebook and Twitter, and I have been able to reach out and have discussions with people via the #Mariberhubungprogramme we initiated in 2014 amongst others.

31. I value that feedback, because this is a Government that listens to the people, and their wellbeing and safety is always our first priority.

32. But there also those who misuse social media and blogs to spread lies and false propaganda - such as the ludicrous claims that Malaysia is going bankrupt, that it is a failed state, or that it is no longer a democracy.

33. It only takes the slightest examination of the facts to realise that there is no basis to these claims at all. Why, if Malaysia was on the verge of bankruptcy, of being a failed state, or of becoming a dictatorship, would the World Bank say that the Malaysian economy is proceeding from a position of strength?

34. Why would a report co-authored by the renowned Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania declare Malaysia to be the Best Country to Invest in?

38. But we need social media practitioners to be fair and responsible in what they write and post, and discriminating in what they read. Don't just believe every post and tweet. For there is so much fake news out there that the Economist magazine this week even asked if social media is a threat to democracy.

39. That's on the front cover of the magazine. It says that "fake news squalor" - and I quote - is setting the tone.

40. The Economist said, and I quote:

41. "Efforts to debunk fake news often don't spread as far, or through the same networks. Indeed, they may well be ignored. And even if they are not, they are never as engaging as the rumours they seek to replace."

42. A well known American political strategist has described this as one of the "biggest political problems" around the world, and we must take it very seriously

here in Malaysia. For we do not want anyone to take decisions based on lies, distortions and smears.

43. So I am glad to see that Social Media Chambers, the co-organisers of this event, emphasise that for them “the core values of being responsible and accountable for the expression of thoughts are paramount”.

44. That is exactly what we want to see in social media. You can agree with us or disagree with us. But don't dispute the facts of an economy that grew at 5.7 percent in the first half of this year. Don't dispute the fact of a Malaysia that is respected and welcomed around the world, from Washington DC and Beijing to Riyadh, New Delhi and London.

45. Don't dispute the record of a Government that has taken tough decisions, like bringing in GST and removing subsidies, because it was the responsible thing to do - as is recognised by the international ratings agencies and world renowned bodies such as the IMF and the OECD.

46. This same spirit of being responsible and accountable should inform our approach to the digital economy that is an integral part of Malaysia's future, and an integral part of creating a prosperous, sustainable, inclusive and equitable future for all Malaysians.

47. My thanks again to the organisers. The Malaysian government looks forward to working with all of you here as a willing partner, and I hope that all the international participants and speakers have had a wonderful few days in Malaysia. We look forward to welcoming you back - and my congratulations to you all on a successful summit.

Thank you.

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