

**Speech Text of Cyber Defence & Security Exhibition and Conference 2021**

By : YAB TAN SRI DATO' HAJI MUHYIDDIN BIN HAJI MOHD YASSIN

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**TEXT OF SPEECH**

**YAB TAN SRI DATO' HJ. MAHIADDIN BIN HJ. MD YASSIN  
PRIME MINISTER**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH  
CYBER DEFENCE & SECURITY EXHIBITION AND  
CONFERENCE 2021 (CYDES 2021)**

Assalamu'alaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh, Salam sejahtera and a very Good Morning to everyone.

Excellencies, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen;

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. Alhamdulillah, All Praise be for Allah Subaha Wa Taala, by whose grace and blessings we are able to virtually meet at this launching ceremony of Cyber Defence & Security Exhibition and Conference 2021 (CYDES 2021) this fine morning, when our country as well as the rest of the world are still furiously battling the COVID-19 pandemic.

2. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, today, we are living in a vastly different world. The pandemic has changed almost everything of our life. Our lifestyles have changed and thus, embracing digital technology has become a new norm.

3. The speed of our dependency on the digital world during this pandemic-induced time has significantly increased beyond our expectation. With it, new opportunities have been created. Indeed, COVID-19 has accelerated our plans and strategies to enhance digital literacy.

4. Now, more Malaysians are getting themselves involved in e-commerce, our students have become more exposed to online classrooms while the economic and government sectors are relentlessly enhancing efficiency through digitalization

5. It has become very clear that embracing digital technology is something we cannot do without in order to overcome all those challenges in managing the worst impacts of COVID-19, and to emerge from it, bolder and stronger.

6. But it has also become evident that this reliance has not only created new opportunities but also opened up the floodgate of threats, risks and vulnerabilities. Irresponsible cyber criminals are exploiting the situation to carry out their malicious intents.

7. In 2019, the number of cyber incidences reported stood at 3,787. By 2020, the incidences spiralled to a worrying 10 percent to 4,194. This year, the number is expected to surge further as can be seen in the first quarter of this year alone where 1,300 cyber incidences have been reported.

8. Cyber crimes have also shown an upward trend. According to the Royal Malaysian Police statistics, in 2019, the number of cyber crimes reported was 11,875 cases, with RM498 million in terms of losses. Last year, the number of cases increased to 14,229, with total losses of RM413 million. In the first quarter of this year, the number of cases reported was 4,327 and the losses involved were RM 77 million.

9. Although for the past three years, the amount of losses associated with cyber crimes seems to be declining, a worrying fact is that the number of cases continues to surge. This only proves that cyber crimes have indeed become a problem that warrants our serious attention.

10. It has become an issue that no country can solve it alone. We must be mindful that cyber threats know no borders – they have become more sophisticated and complicated than ever.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. We cannot escape anymore from emphasising on the elements of cyber security in each and every initiative. Cyber security should become the priority of every nation, especially on matters underlying economic and national security.

12. As such, it has become one of the government's main focus areas to complement our efforts in accelerating the economic growth of this country. In February 2021, the government launched the MyDigital, aimed at encouraging all Malaysians to embrace digitalisation and seize opportunities to improve the standard of living. MyDigital is a national initiative, which symbolises the aspirations of the Government to

successfully transform Malaysia into a digitally-driven, high income nation and a regional leader in digital economy.

13. To ensure the success of MyDigital, the National Cyber Security Agency (NACSA), has been given the responsibility to be the lead agency to coordinate and set the standard of all cyber security initiatives under the six (6) clusters of MyDigital. This is a reflection of the government's seriousness and deep commitment to improve national resilience in safeguarding our cyber environment. I believe that not only Malaysia but all other nations across the world should take this matter seriously.

14. All the action plans under the Malaysia Cyber Security Strategy 2020 – 2024 (MCSS 2020 – 2024) will be aligned with the MyDigital initiatives as key elements to achieve the vision of building a secured, trusted and resilient cyber space.

15. Through MCSS, the government will fortify local capabilities to predict, detect, deter and respond to cyber threats by strengthening our cybersecurity governance, nurturing competent people, supporting best practice processes and deploying effective technologies.

16. MCSS has also outlined 113 programmes under its 35 action plans, of which one of them is to organise biennial international conferences and exhibitions, also known as CYDES.

17. The objective of CYDES is to gather all cybersecurity experts to share their best practices and latest available technologies and updates. It is hoped that this conference will enable us to fight cyber crimes together, better. In the face of the increasing cyber threats, all of us must work together in sharing our experiences, knowledge and new technologies.

18. CYDES will include ASEAN Cybersecurity Forum, 12 MCSS Track Sessions, Cyber Podium, Policy Dialogues, Virtual Exhibitions, Memorandum and Letter of Understanding Signing Ceremonies and discussions involving 30 nations with a total of 2,500 participants. There will be 80 Companies promoting and showcasing their latest products. The number could be much higher if not for Covid-19. It has to be downscaled because of the uncertainties that come along with the pandemic.

19. I am confident that CYDES will gain prominence as the leading cybersecurity forum in the Asia Pacific region. I would like to congratulate the National Cyber Security Agency (NACSA) of the National Security Council, and Alpine Integrated Solution as the co-organiser of CYDES, for making it an event worthy of international attention.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

20. Finally, I hope that all delegates and participants will take the opportunity during this CYDES 2021 to gain knowledge and build their networkings.

21. I would also like to take this opportunity to announce that the minister who will assist me and be responsible on cyber security affairs is Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob, the Senior Minister for Security and Minister of Defence, Malaysia.

22. With Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, I hereby launch CYDES 2021.

Thank you.

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