

SPEECH BY
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It gives me great pleasure this afternoon to witness yet another Malaysian company attain global standard for quality. I extend my congratulations to Cypark Sdn Bhd which, I'm told, is one of the first few companies in the landscape industry in Asia to be awarded the ISO 9002 certificate.

2. This a great achievement for Cypark and a proud milestone for the country. It is a mark of the calibre of Malaysian companies and their determination to be a benchmark in the industries they are involved in.

3. Gaining recognition is just the first step. The next priority for Cypark and all other Malaysian companies which have been awarded ISO certificate is to ensure that they continue to maintain the international standards and challenge themselves to improve further.

4. In a market place that is increasingly global and competitive, Malaysian companies will need to develop the added edge to distinguish themselves from the rest as they span their wings across the world in search of more business and new markets.

5. Malaysian companies must prepare themselves well to face increased competition from more established and traditional sources as borders open and trade barriers fall. They must always be ready to compete with the world's best if our goal to become an industrialized nation is to be realized - thus, your new corporate web-site will be an excellent avenue to showcase your achievements and capabilities.

6. The success of every Malaysian company, be it at home or overseas, is a proud achievement for the country. It is important that they uphold themselves as responsible corporate citizens with good governance to uphold the image of Malaysia

7. I note that Malaysian companies have carved niches for themselves in many parts of the world, in many fields. We must continually upgrade our efficiency and productivity. We must not shy away from hard work or failure, only then will enduring success follow.

8. It is inevitable that as we progress and as our country develops, we will see increasing urbanisation. More and more townships and homes are build, new buildings, roads and highways are being constructed for the convenience of the people and to boost the country's economy.

9. It has often being lamented that all this comes at the expense of nature - the degradation of the environment and the loss of precious natural eco- systems. Such concerns reflect caring Malaysians who are anxious that their children and grandchildren will still have green fields to play on, recreation parks, beautiful waterfalls and forests in the future.

10. Malaysia is a beautiful country blessed with lush flora and fauna. It is for the government and every citizen to ensure that as we march towards developed nation status, we will not compromise on the quality of life and the environment. The preservation of nature is not just for environment activists, it is, for the most part, the duty of a responsible government and the people.

11. Malaysia is fortunate that it can learn from the lessons and experiences of developed and developing countries that have been ravaged by environment destruction. We will not allow our natural heritage to suffer the same fate.

12. Here, I reiterate that the government is committed to sustainable development, in building our cities and towns or in making economic use of our land. We will make it a priority to maintain this very importance balance between development and environment.

13. This is the greatest challenge for our town- planners and landscape architects today in designing our towns and cities as comfortable places for people to live in, work and play. Landscaping is more than just replanting trees and designing beautiful gardens. It is now an integral part of the development process. Landscape architects play their role right from the very start, to advise on the best layouts for buildings and other amenities, to blend with the background, to bring out the best `natural partnership' between concrete and the environment.

14. Excellent examples of this are Putrajaya and Cyberjaya, two very sophisticated and high-tech cities set amidst beautiful greener and lakes. The eco- friendly development of Putrajaya and Cyberjaya proves that the twin target of a `green' and high standard of living and working place is possible with the right planning and vision.

15. I would urge the private sector to join hands with the government to implement sound sustainable development. We would like to see more developers take proactive steps to preserve as much of the natural landscape in their projects, to create more open spaces for our young to play football and other sports, people- friendly designs and to keep our waters and air clean.

16. Companies like Cypark need to realize their important role in continuing to improve the quality of urban living environment by setting up local centers of excellence, which can also help in training and developing a pool of local talent as we continue to expand our services globally. By devising innovative and creative services that will make its mark both locally and overseas, we can be assured of a strong presence in the highly competitive services industry. What Cypark has achieved is commendable, and I believe that if the company continues holding firm to the commitment to sustainable development - this can be easily achieved.

17. The government has also started many programmes to make the public more aware of conservation including tree planting in residential neighbourhoods. We are a nation of 22 million, let's take it upon ourselves to plant a tree, for the nation, for the future and our children.

18. On this note, I wish Cypark Sdn Bhd `tahniah' for its achievement. This is a milestone for the company and I'll be watching out for more.

Thank You.