

**27/03/2014 - Launching Of Guidebook On Export And Import Procedures  
In Malaysia And Pemudah Journalism Competition 2013 Award Ceremony**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and Salam 1Malaysia.

YBhg. Dato' Saw Choo Boon

Co-chair of PEMUDAH;

YBhg. Dato' Chamil Wariya

Chief Executive Officer

Malaysian Press Institute;

Members of PEMUDAH;

Invited guests, journalists and members of the Media;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

**OPENING REMARKS**

1. First and foremost, I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you for being with us here today, where we will be launching the Guidebook on Export and Import Procedures, and awarding the prizes for the PEMUDAH Journalism Competition 2013.
  
2. Since its inception in 2007, the Special Task Force to Facilitate Business or PEMUDAH, has proven to be **a unique collaboration** between the public and private sector, in supporting the National Transformation Agenda. PEMUDAH aims to improve the **Government's service delivery, enhance Malaysia's competitiveness and ensure businesses are facilitated efficiently**, with efforts directed at:
  - o **introducing initiatives and improvements** to the Government delivery system;

- undertaking regulatory reviews to provide a conducive and facilitative business environment;
- ensuring greater transparency, accountability and efficiency of the public sector; and
- improving the service level of the private sector.

### **WORLD BANK DOING BUSINESS REPORT 2014**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. The World Bank Doing Business Report 2014 commended Malaysia for establishing PEMUDAH, a committee at the inter-ministerial level, to reform business regulations and procedures. The World Bank acknowledged that Malaysia is among the **top ten reformers within the APEC region** that **made the most progress** towards the frontier in regulatory practices. Malaysia welcomes the World Bank's findings, as it **affirms Malaysia's competitiveness as an economy**, and **reflects the Government's successful endeavours** to improve the business environment and make it conducive for sustained economic growth.
4. We are proud that Malaysia achieved a commendable surge to **6th position among 189 economies in the World Bank Doing Business 2014** report; well ahead of our target to be among the top 10 by 2015. In the areas of **Getting Credit** and **Protecting Investors**, Malaysia continues to achieve **first and fourth position respectively**, for six years in a row. In the area of **Trading Across Borders**, Malaysia improved to **5th position**, and is now placed among the top ten in the world. Other significant improvements made were in the areas of Starting a Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, Enforcing Contracts, Resolving Insolvency and Getting Electricity.

### **GUIDEBOOK ON EXPORT AND IMPORT PROCEDURES IN MALAYSIA**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. PEMUDAH continues to strengthen regulatory reforms through a series of public and private consultation forums as well as dialogues. To date, various guidebooks on good regulatory practices have been launched, and today, we will launch

the “**Guidebook on Export and Import Procedures in Malaysia**”. This Guidebook is the result of the collaboration between the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) and its agencies, with private sector organisations such as Chambers of Commerce and trade associations, as we strive to improve the country’s competitiveness.

6. The Guidebook provides an **easy single-source reference** to importers and exporters in Malaysia, by collating the relevant trade information and making it accessible via a convenient and inexpensive toolkit. It is our hope that this Guidebook will facilitate those who are involved in **international trade** and also enable **more new entrepreneurs to effectively participate** in this important sector of the economy.

7. In this regard, I would like to thank the various parties who have collaborated in developing the Guidebook and ensuring its successful completion, namely representatives from the:

- Association of Banks Malaysia (ABM);
- Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM);
- Malaysian International Chambers of Commerce and Industry (MICCI);
- Federation of Malaysian Freight Forwarders (FMFF);
- Selangor Freight Forwarders and Logistics Association (SFFLA);
- Northport;
- Port Klang Authority (PKA);
- Dagangnet;
- Ministry of Finance (MOF);
- Royal Customs of Malaysia;
- Malaysian Quarantine and Inspection Services (MAQIS);
- Food Safety Information of Malaysia (FOSIM);
- Ministry of Transport (MOT);
- Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI);
- Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE);
- SME Corp.; and
- Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC).

## **PEMUDAH JOURNALISM COMPETITION**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. While PEMUDAH continues to be a catalyst to bring about change to enhance Malaysia's competitiveness and ease of doing business, the public needs to be made more aware of the many improvements and reform initiatives implemented. The media has an important role in joining forces with PEMUDAH to collaborate and share **oneness in purpose** in moving the Malaysian development agenda forward.
9. Hence, in 2013, the PEMUDAH Journalism Competition was organised, as the first step towards the **quest of good journalism practices** by the media community in Malaysia and as **recognition for excellence**. Our partner for the PEMUDAH Journalism Competition is the Malaysian Press Institute, which has also launched the *Hadiah Kewartawanan Malaysia* or the Malaysian Journalism Prize, similar to that of the Pulitzer Prize in the United States.
10. The PEMUDAH Journalism Competition was opened to all journalists working for any Malaysian newspaper or magazine, either in the print or on-online medium, as well as in broadcasting. The Competition required articles submitted to **focus on any of the ten areas of Doing Business in Malaysia**. It allowed for journalists to:
  - **showcase actual experiences** of business facilitation;
  - **share the stories of Malaysian reformers** and what they have accomplished;
  - **inform citizens** of how they can take advantage of faster, cheaper and simpler ways of dealing with regulations; and
  - **provide feedback** on whether reforms are actually working, and what businesses and citizens want as their next priorities.

We believe that by understanding how Malaysia's reform initiatives matter, and by obtaining constant feedback, this will help push the nation towards new levels of competitiveness.

## **CLOSING**

11. The judges had a difficult time deciding on the winners of the Competition, and I am pleased to present the winners with their awards today. "Congratulations" to those who have won, and to those who have not, do not be disheartened, as we believe that each and every one of you has contributed to the wealth of knowledge shared. I sincerely hope all of you will continue to pursue your efforts in the journey towards excellence in journalism.

Thank you. *Wabillahittaufik walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.*