

**02/04/2015 - Launch Of National Open Data Champion And MoU Signing In Conjunction With Flagship Coordination Committee Meeting**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, Salam Sejahtera and Salam 1Malaysia.

YBhg. Tan Sri Mohamad Zabidi Zainal  
Director General,  
Public Service Department;

YBhg.Dato' Yasmin Mahmood,  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Multimedia Development Corporation (MDeC);

YBhg.Dato' Seri Zainal Rahim Bin Seman,  
Director General,  
Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit  
(MAMPU);

Mr. Richard Stirling,  
International Director of Open Data Institute;

National Data Champions;

Members of the media;

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. I am delighted to be here with all of you today at the launch of the National Open Data Champion & MoU Signing between MDeC and Open Data Institute, in conjunction with the Flagship Coordination Committee Meeting. It is indeed very nice to see attendance from decision and policy makers, subject matter experts and our partners. I thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to be here.

## WHY OPEN DATA?

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

2. The use of technology and the digitalisation of our economy and administration have led to an incredible gold mine – Open Data. To keep pace with the digitally-driven global economy, we need to **use open data to drive efficiency and boost productivity** to transform into a knowledge-intensive economy.
3. With the increase in internet and mobile usage by the *rakyat* that we have seen over the years, we need to acknowledge the importance of digital engagement and information-sharing that will keep the *rakyat* informed on crisis, natural disasters, power and water disruptions, and dengue outbreaks among others. We see the potential of Open Data in enabling our local entrepreneurs and businesses to innovate and create solutions that will benefit the society and the economy.
4. In fact, Governments around the world have seen the potential and reaped the benefits of Open Data for the society, the economy and the Government. For example, the UK Government had released data on the location of 300,000 bus-stops, after which the community came together and corrected 18,000 of

them through an Open Street Map that helped the country improve its official data accuracy.

## OPEN GOVERNMENT AND OPEN DATA

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

5. In our efforts towards public service excellence with the *rakyat* at its core, the Government of Malaysia is set to introduce **Open Government principles**, of which open data is a key component to increase Government transparency and drive innovation among entrepreneurs, SMEs, and businesses for the benefit of the *rakyat*.
6. The Open Government principles aim to transform the Government culture surrounding Open Data, by **opening up non-sensitive data** for local entrepreneurs and businesses to derive insights for business innovation purposes. Open Data also enables more engagement between the Government and the *rakyat*, enabling them to be more directly informed and involved in the Government's decision making process.
7. Our Open Data efforts includes the implementation of the **Open Data Platform** (data.gov.my) in 2014, that hosts quality, non-personal data such as weather reports, bus schedules, price of essential goods, and dengue hotspots. These data that can be accessed, used and shared by anyone.
8. I am glad to note that we have now **opened 123 sets of data from 11 different ministries**. However, there is still much room for improvement to increase the quality of data and build a culture of open data beyond a single Government department that encompasses agencies at the local and federal levels.

9. As the next step, we in Malaysia must also then explore opportunities using data from different agencies and ministries. For example, by using data from JAKIM on the number of *halal* premises and locations, local businesses can strategically open new businesses in areas of high Muslim population. Application developers can introduce a 'Halal Finder' that can help Muslims search for the closest halal premise such as restaurants, slaughter houses or mosques.
10. In terms of international rankings, we are now ranked **41 among 86 countries in the Open Data Barometer ranking**, a common assessment method for Open Data. I am glad to announce that our rank is higher than our initial target of 50<sup>th</sup> position by year 2020. But of course, our journey does not just stop here. We must now double of efforts to further improve our rankings.

#### **EFFORTS TOWARDS OPEN DATA GOVERNMENT**

Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

11. To accelerate the adoption of Open Data, we are **introducing Open Data guidelines** to Government agencies so that they can implement open data principles to their processes and day-to-day activities, towards the Government's open data transformation goal.
12. I am also pleased to bear witness to a **strategic partnership between MDeC and Open Data Institute (ODI)** on driving open data adoption in Malaysia, and introduce the **National Open Data Champions**. Data Champions are selected individuals within Government agencies assigned to expedite the adoption of Open Data, and provide support and technical assistance to overcome organisational barriers in their own agencies. The Data Champions will come from the following **pioneering agencies**:
  - National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (**NAHRIM**);
  - Malaysian Centre for Geospatial Data Infrastructure (**MaCGDI**);
  - Jabatan Kemajuan Islam Malaysia (**JAKIM**);
  - Department of Statistics Malaysia (**DOSM**);
  - Ministry of Transport (**MOT**);
  - Ministry of Communication and Multimedia (**KKMM**);
  - Land Public Transport Commission (**SPAD**); and the

- Ministry of Finance (**MOF**).

13. These Data Champions will, among others, engage and advise Government agencies, provide fast-track open data training to bring Government agencies up to speed on open data principles, and assist in obtaining datasets and publish them on data.gov.my. I sincerely hope that the Data Champions will be able to go forth in their endeavours successfully and make a positive change in their agencies.

### **CLOSING REMARKS**

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

14. As we move towards our goal to become a leading world-class civil service, I urge all ministries and agencies to come together in support of Open Data for the public sector, together with MDeC and MAMPU. With the Open Data technology, and with our joint effort, I am confident that we can enhance our public service delivery and improve the quality of life of the *rakyat*.

Thank you.

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.