

**By : DATO' SRI MOHD NAJIB BIN TUN HAJI ABDUL RAZAK  
PERDANA MENTERI MALAYSIA**

**Venue : Kuantan, Pahang**

**Date : 10/04/2014**

**Title : GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY OF THE INTEGRATED AROMA  
INGREDIENTS COMPLEX BASF PETRONAS CHEMICALS SDN BHD**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

**Yang Amat Berhormat Dato'Sri DiRaja Haji Adnan Haji Yaakob;**

Menteri Besar Pahang,

**Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed;**

Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa & Industri,

**Yang Berhormat Menteri-Menteri,**

**Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Shamsul Azhar Abbas;**

Presiden dan Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif Kumpulan PETRONAS,

**Yang Berhormat Speaker Dewan Undangan Negeri Pahang,**

**Yang Berhormat Timbalan - Timbalan Menteri,**

*Your Excellency,*

**Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Muhammad Safian Bin Ismail;**

Setiausaha Kerajaan Negeri Pahang,

**Yang Berhormat Ahli-ahli Majlis Mesyuarat Kerajaan Pahang,**

**Yang Berbahagia Datuk Wan Zulkiflee Wan Ariffin;**

Pengerusi BASF PETRONAS Chemicals Sdn Bhd, merangkap

Ketua Pegawai Operasi dan Naib Presiden Eksekutif Urusniaga Hiliran PETRONAS,

**Yang Berbahagia Dr Martin Brudermüller;**

Naib Pengerusi Lembaga Pengarah Eksekutif BASF SE bagi Asia Pasifik,

**Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri – Tan Sri & Dato' Sri –Dato' Sri,**

**Yang Hormat Dato'-Dato',**

**Ketua-Ketua Jabatan Persekutuan dan Negeri,**

**Pihak-Pihak Pengurusan PETRONAS dan BASF,**

**Pemimpin-pemimpin Masyarakat,**

**Wakil-wakil Media,**

**Hadirin serta Hadirat Yang Dihormati Sekalian.**

**Assalamualaikum dan Salam 1Malaysia.**

1. Pertama sekali, marilah kita memanjatkan rasa syukur ke hadrat Ilahi kerana dengan limpah kurnianya dapat kita bersama-sama menyaksikan upacara Pecah Tanah Kompleks Bahan Aroma Bersepadu pada pagi yang berbahagia ini. Projek ini merupakan satu lagi pencapaian penting PETRONAS di dalam usaha memajukan industri minyak dan gas di Malaysia, khususnya di Negeri Pahang Darul Makmur.

2. Saya juga ingin merakamkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan kepada pihak PETRONAS dan anak syarikatnya BASF PETRONAS Chemicals Sdn Bhd kerana sudi menjemput saya untuk menyempurnakan majlis ini.

3. Hadirin dan hadirat sekalian, izinkan saya meneruskan ucapan dalam Bahasa Inggeris sebagai menghormati tetamu kita dari luar negara.

**Distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen,**

4. Today we are indeed privileged to witness the inauguration of Integrated Aroma Chemicals Complex project here at BASF PETRONAS Chemicals. The project is reflective not only of the strategic partnership between PETRONAS and BASF - one that has been forged in strength and matured beyond expectations - but also reflective of the strategic partnership between Malaysia and Germany, a country we have held in high regard since the formation of Malaysia. In fact, Germany was one of the very first countries to set up diplomatic ties with the then Federation of Malaya upon the Declaration of Independence in 1957.

5. Since then, there has been no shortage of strategic and mutually-beneficial partnerships with German companies here in Malaysia – companies like BASF, Bayer, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, OSRAM, SIEMENS, just to name a few – are definitely familiar names of well-established German companies here in Malaysia. The partnership between PETRONAS and BASF, via BASF PETRONAS Chemicals is a testimony of this enduring collaboration, having been established almost 17 years ago in the year 1997.

**Ladies and gentlemen,**

6. Whilst we are proud of the established relationships forged, I am equally excited by the future opportunities which lay ahead. Asia is quickly establishing itself as the regional hotbed of global growth; buoyed by rapid urbanisation, population growth and economic prosperity. Already the most populous region in the world, we are set to witness Asia's population grow to 4.5 billion by 2035, accounting a massive 53% of world's total population. This convergence of factors will undoubtedly impact both economic growth and ultimately energy demand. By 2035, Asia is expected to account more than 60% of world's primary energy. Bringing this to context of the petrochemical industry; I believe this simply translates to not only a greater demand, but also a larger suite of product chains.

7. Closer to home, I am pleased to note that the Malaysian economy has not only grown in tandem but has successfully outpaced global growth. The World Bank registered Malaysia's GDP growth as averaging around a sustainable pace of 4% for the past five years; higher than the US and also Japan. The oil and gas industry is a major contributor to this growth, where it has consistently been contributing more than 40% to our gross national income. Naturally, its progress and growth is very close to my heart.

8. Despite the encouraging economic performance achieved, Malaysia is not impervious to external shocks that can potentially derail efforts to achieve our desired investment and economic targets. As a relatively small nation without the benefit of boosting a sizeable domestic demand, our economy will be susceptible to vagaries and volatilities of external trade if we continue depending on commodities and raw resources.

9. It is for this very reason that the Government of Malaysia has long since embarked on the journey to transform Malaysia from a largely agricultural and natural resource-exporting nation to a highly competitive, industrialised high-income nation. This is thrust upon the need to enhance Malaysia's economic sustainability, resilience and robustness; by cultivating a knowledge based economy which adds value to commodities via innovation, competency and technology. We are also acutely conscious on the importance of investments in driving our high income nation aspiration – which in turn will enhance living standards and improve the quality of people's lives.

10. This, in turn, has engendered the nation's Economic Transformation Programme that is based on 12 National Key Economic Areas or NKEAs. At the apex of this Programme is the notion of a private sector led economy; premised upon economic feasibility, efficiency and productivity; free from unnecessary Government interventions and encumbrances. On the other hand, the Government will play an active facilitation role by putting in place encouraging pro-business policies and processes to encourage both domestic and foreign direct investments into Malaysia. An example which I often quote is the recent Marginal Field PITA incentive, which was endorsed and enforced within record time.

11. Since its inception, our efforts have started to bear fruit and the numbers can attest to this. In the World Bank Ease of Doing Business Report 2014, Malaysia was ranked 6<sup>th</sup> among 189 economies. Moving forward, we are confident that private investment in Malaysia would continue to record healthy double-digit growth – 16.5% in the fourth quarter last year from 15.2% in the third quarter.

**Distinguished guests, ladies & gentlemen**

12. Another vital salient feature of our Economic Transformation Programme is the focussed approach undertaken; prioritising policy support and investments in industries which we have competitive advantage and are aligned to the Nation's inspiration. In this accord, we laud the efforts by both PETRONAS and BASF to invest some RM1.5 billion in setting up an Integrated Aroma Ingredients Complex. The investment demonstrates the strength of the partnership between BASF, the world's leading chemical company, and PETRONAS, Malaysia's national oil company.

13. I believe this project, which features state-of-the-art German technology and innovation in producing specialty chemicals in the form of aroma ingredients at BASF PETRONAS Chemicals site; truly epitomise our strategy of a high income, knowledge based industry.

14. Furthermore, the Government is confident that when this complex, located here in the Gebeng Industrial Zone comes on stream in 2016, it will position Gebeng at epicentre of Asia Pacific's high-value specialty chemicals production. This will hopefully attract further investments, including those in supporting industries; generating numerous employment and business opportunities. This will undoubtedly benefit Malaysia in general and specifically the state of Pahang.

**Para hadirin yang saya hormati,**

15. Kompleks Bahan Aroma Bersepadu yang dijangka siap pada tahun 2016 akan mewujudkan 120 peluang pekerjaan yang memerlukan kepakaran teknikal di kalangan para pekerja tempatan. Mereka yang terpilih berpeluang menceburi industri petrokimia berteknologi tinggi yang akan meningkatkan tahap kemahiran dan kepakaran teknikal mereka. Latihan kemahiran serta pemindahan pengetahuan dan kepakaran teknologi yang diterima akan menjadi pemangkin kepada pembangunan tenaga pekerja berkemahiran tinggi negara, khususnya dalam bidang minyak, gas dan petrokimia. Di samping itu, projek ini juga akan mewujudkan 1,500 peluang pekerjaan semasa fasa pembinaan kompleks.

16. Saya berharap aktiviti-aktiviti pembangunan perindustrian di kompleks tersebut akan mendorong lebih ramai anak-anak watan negeri Pahang khususnya dan Malaysia amnya untuk menceburi bidang minyak, gas dan petrokimia. Negara kita amat memerlukan tenaga kerja tempatan yang berkemahiran tinggi untuk berkhidmat di dalam industri ini, yang juga merupakan penyumbang tertinggi kepada pendapatan negara.

**Para hadirin yang dihormati,**

17. Saya ingin memuji kerjasama penuh sektor korporat yang diterajui PETRONAS, antara lainnya melalui usaha pembangunan industri petrokimia yang terancang di Malaysia yang bakal menjana pelaburan swasta positif serta mewujudkan pelbagai peluang perniagaan dan pekerjaan di kalangan penduduk tempatan.

18. Namun kejayaan PETRONAS dan negara amatlah bergantung kepada sokongan rakyat yang diberikan terhadap projek seperti Kompleks Bahan Aroma Bersepadu di BASF PETRONAS Chemicals, serta projek-projek PETRONAS lain yang bertujuan memacu pertumbuhan ekonomi negara, seperti projek Loji Penapisan Dan Pembangunan Petrokimia Bersepadu atau RAPID di Pengerang, Johor dan projek Ammonia Urea Sabah atau SAMUR di Sipitang, Sabah serta projek-projek PETRONAS lain yang sedang diusahakan atau berada dalam tahap perancangan. Maka, saya amat berharap anda akan terus menyokong PETRONAS dalam usahanya mendorong kepesatan pembangunan ekonomi Malaysia ke arah negara berpendapatan tinggi.

19. Akhir kata, saya ingin memberi jaminan kepada pihak BASF PETRONAS Chemicals serta pihak-pihak yang berkepentingan bahawa pihak Kerajaan akan terus komited dalam memberikan kerjasama dan sokongan dalam menjayakan projek pembinaan Kompleks Bahan Aroma Bersepadu ini. Semoga usaha ikhlas kita untuk memajukan ekonomi Malaysia dan mempertingkatkan taraf hidup, kemampanan dan daya saing rakyat Malaysia, khususnya di Negeri Pahang ini mendapat keberkatan dan restu Yang Maha Esa, Insya-Allah.

20. Dengan lafaz Bismillahirrahmanirrahim, sukacita saya merasmikan Upacara Pecah Tanah Kompleks Bahan Aroma Bersepadu.

**Sekian, Terima kasih.**

**Wabillahitaufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**