



OPENING SPEECH

YANG BERTHORMAT

DATO SERI PADUKA AWANG HAJI SUHAIMI BIN HAJI GAFAR

MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT

AT

PUJA AGM DINNER TERM 2016-2017

28th APRIL 2018

TERINDAK D'SENI, BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ
الحمد لله رب العالمين
والصلاة والسلام على أشرف الأنبياء والمرسلين
سيدنا محمد وعلى آله وصحبه أجمعين

السَّلَامُ عَلَيْكُمْ وَرَحْمَةُ اللَّهِ وَبَرَكَاتُهُ

Good Evening and Salam Sejahtera

Alhamdulillah, praises to Allah Subhanahu Wata'ala for letting us gather here tonight at PUJA AGM Dinner. Congratulations to the newly elected council members in joining hands to build a better professional community within PUJA (B).

First and foremost, I wish to express my sincere thanks to Pertubuhan Ukur Jurutera dan Arkitek (PUJA) for inviting me to PUJA Annual General Meeting Dinner, tonight. Since the long formation of PUJA (B) 34 years ago in 1984, PUJA continues to play important roles in reaching out and collaborating with its strategic partners, stakeholders and grass roots in nurturing, producing and developing the heart of the Construction Industry players – architects, engineers and surveyors.

I am happy to note the new slogan of PUJA (B) which is '**Professionalism is Amanah**' emphasising the importance of the three pillars - Ethics, Trust and Professionalism. As such, it is very important that we as professionals protect

and uphold the trust and responsibilities given to our profession by both the industry and the public. Maintaining the professionalism, abide by code of ethics and live with integrity at all times.

The surge of globalization presents us with critical challenges. The changing pace of globalization is creating a new order in the emerging economies, technology and development. Issues relating to oil and gas, rapid evolution of technology, necessitating cyber security, climate change, unemployment, economic recession, etc. These challenges cannot be encountered in isolation especially in construction industry. Professionals from all strategic partners, private and public sectors can work together as a source of hope. This is where the true value of Institution like PUJA plays a very important role.

As an economy, we are still heavily reliant on the oil and gas sector which makes up more than half of the country's GDP. Hence, the Government of His Majesty is actively pursuing various strategies of economic diversification, to be less dependent on oil and gas. Amongst which, the country is making serious efforts at improving the business climate in the country through improved World Bank's Ease of Doing Business (EODB) ranking, facilitating the attraction of foreign direct investment (FDI), strengthening GLCs governance and businesses, priming SME for growth opportunities and raising productivities. And currently, Ministry of Development is spear heading a Framework to Transform Brunei Darussalam Construction Industry to a productive and highly competent Construction Industry with the capacity and capability to support socio-economic development of the country in line with Wawasan Brunei 2035, and with a long term potential to be a player in the regional and global markets. Working together with the construction players, Ministry of Development has 3 key strategies – improve governance, adopting construction best practices and capacity building.

Ministry of Development had always been an important strategic partner of PUJA ever since their formation. And one of the key milestone is the recognition of PUJA Professional Assessment process as a direct and equivalent replacement to other international professional qualifications accepted and recognized by BAPEQS. And I do hope the long awaited recognition from BAPEQS will be realized soon. And with the commitment from their fellow respected members and continuous support from the Councils and Committee, PUJA (B) should be seen as the No.1 choice of Professional Institution in Brunei Darussalam.

Ministry of Development look forward to increase a more meaningful engagements with PUJA as we move forward for the benefit of our country and PUJA members.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah
Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh

Thank you