



OPENING REMARKS

**YB DATUK SERI JOHARI ABDUL GHANI
ACTING MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

**18TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON THE ENVIRONMENT
(AMME) AND RELATED MEETINGS**

**3 SEPTEMBER 2025 (WEDNESDAY)
LANGKAWI INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION CENTRE (LICC),
LANGKAWI**

The Excellencies Heads of Delegation of ASEAN Member States,

His Excellency Secretary General of ASEAN,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

A very good morning to everyone and a very warm welcome or 'Selamat Datang' to Langkawi, Malaysia.

1. On behalf of the Government of Malaysia and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability (NRES), I am delighted to welcome all distinguished delegates from ASEAN

Member States, our dialogue partners, and the ASEAN Secretariat to the 18th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment (AMME) and related meetings.

2. As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the ASEAN Community and begin a crucial decade toward the ASEAN Community Vision 2045, Malaysia as the ASEAN Chair for this year is truly honored to host this significant meeting.
3. With its theme "Inclusivity and Sustainability", it is our aspiration for shared progress and our commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind. It also aims to promote meaningful partnerships and build a resilient, future-ready ASEAN. It reflects our determination to live in harmony with nature and to showcase our priorities and shared hope for this region. This aligns with the principles of MADANI - an aspiration for inclusivity, justice, and shared responsibility.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. AMME is a key platform for environmental cooperation among ASEAN member states to provide strategic guidance and policy direction for environmental initiatives across the region. With the support of ASOEN and its thematic working groups, from biodiversity and coastal environments to environmental education and climate change, AMME has led to better initiatives and policies that deliver real impact for both people and nature.

5. AMME not only serves as a platform for reviewing progress but also as a vital opportunity to reaffirm our collective commitment to action, scale up partnerships, and shape a more ambitious and integrated way forward. With these in mind, we would like to approach this meeting with these priorities:
- (i) First, we hope to strengthen regional cooperation on key environmental priorities through deeper cross-sectoral collaboration, especially among AMME, ASOEN and sectoral bodies under ASEAN;
 - (ii) Second, we aim to finalise ASEAN's common position ahead of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP30) later this year. We must unite as a region to effectively influence global climate discussions. In this view, ASEAN can and should take a stronger stance on issues such as climate finance, adaptation, loss and damage, just transition and the Global Goal on Adaptation; and
 - (iii) Third, we look to advance implementation of multilateral environmental agreements that are relevant to ASEAN, including the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) and the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) of the Global Plastic Treaty.

Distinguished delegates,

6. We have a packed agenda today, and your insights and collaboration will be key to determining our shared priorities and outcomes. Let us use this opportunity to not only reflect on our past successes but also to push forward with impactful purpose. Together, we can build lasting partnerships, develop practical solutions, and demonstrate ASEAN's leadership in creating a sustainable, inclusive, and climate-resilient future.
7. Before I conclude, I warmly invite you to take some time to experience the beauty of Langkawi and the true spirit of Malaysia. From our pristine beaches and lush rainforests to our vibrant culture, local cuisine, and warm hospitality, we hope you will discover what we proudly call "Malaysia, Truly Asia".
8. We look forward to your active participation, continued collaboration and productive outcomes of this meeting.

Thank you and *terima kasih*.