



MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

SPEECH

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**MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

FOR

**TA SECURITIES LUNCHEON TALK
NET ZERO EMISSION 2050 – MALAYSIA’S CURRENT AND FUTURE
DEVELOPMENTS**

13 FEBRUARY 2025 (THURSDAY)

**MENARA TA ONE, 22, JALAN P. RAMLEE,
KUALA LUMPUR**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh, good afternoon and Salam Malaysia Madani.

1. Yang Berbahagia Datin Alicia Tiah

Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer of TA Enterprise Berhad

2. Yang Berusaha Dr Wei-Nee Chen

Head of Carbon Markets at Bursa Malaysia

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

INTRODUCTION

1. I am pleased to have been invited to speak to you all today. My thanks to TA Securities for this engaging opportunity. We have all heard how the protection of the environment needs to thrive in harmony with our country's economic growth and societal well-being. I would like to think that, as Malaysia's Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, a big part of my job involves helping to ensure that this lofty goal can be achieved practically and fairly.
2. As we are at a pivotal moment in history, our actions and decisions today will determine the legacy we leave for future generations. Climate change, deforestation, pollution, and biodiversity loss are not just environmental issues—they are challenges that threaten our very existence. Yet, within these challenges lie opportunities for innovation, collaboration, and transformative change.

3. Firstly, let us celebrate the progress we have made. We have expanded our protected areas, promoted renewable energy, and implemented stringent regulations to safeguard our environment. These efforts have not gone unnoticed, and we have set a benchmark for others to follow.

Ladies and gentlemen,

SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES AND POLICIES

4. In our ongoing efforts to combat climate change, the government has announced the introduction of a carbon tax. Starting in 2026, this tax will be imposed on the iron, steel and energy sectors. The goal is to encourage the adoption of low-carbon technologies and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The revenue generated from this tax will be used to fund green technology programmes and research.
5. In addition, we are developing the **National Carbon Market Policy (DPKK)** to establish a robust carbon market in Malaysia which will complement the introduction of carbon tax in Malaysia. This policy will guide and outline the implementation of the compliance carbon market including carbon pricing. This policy will ensure the effective functioning of the carbon market at the domestic and international levels and support the voluntary carbon market which has been established. Thus, the carbon market policy will also promote the trading of carbon credits through the Bursa Carbon Exchange (BCX), further catalysing the development of low-carbon projects and forest conservation efforts.

6. By setting a price on carbon through carbon pricing, businesses are expected to alter their behaviour from operating business as usual to integrating emission reduction efforts by investing in cleaner technologies and practices. Furthermore, the revenue generated from carbon pricing will be used to fund green projects and support the transition to a low-carbon economy.
7. I am also glad to announce that we are in the final stages of preparing the **National Climate Change Bill (RUUPIN)**. This bill focuses on both mitigation and adaptation strategies to address climate change. It aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and prepare communities for changes such as rising temperatures and sea levels. The bill is a testament to our commitment to tackling climate change head-on and ensuring a sustainable future for all.
8. Additionally, the enactment of the bill has involved extensive stakeholder engagement, including state governments, GLCs, GLICs, financial institutions, corporate entities, SMEs, NGOs, civil society organisations, and youth groups, ensuring a comprehensive and inclusive legislative framework. The bill is set to be tabled to Parliament this year, marking another significant step in Malaysia's climate governance.
9. In tandem with the Climate Change Bill, we have updated the previous National Climate Change Policy to a more comprehensive **National Climate Change Policy** which was approved by the Government on 25 September 2024. This policy outlines our strategic approach to addressing climate change through a comprehensive framework that integrates mitigation, adaptation, and resilience measures.

10. It integrates the elements of the Paris Agreement and our obligations under it. The policy also provides a clear path for reducing carbon emissions, promoting sustainable practices, and enhancing community resilience through its strategic pillars. One of its most important features is that this policy ensures that all sectors and stakeholders are aligned in their efforts to combat climate change and protect our environment.

Ladies and gentlemen,

ADDRESSING CURRENT CHALLENGES

11. However, our journey towards sustainability is far from complete. We face numerous challenges that require our immediate and unwavering attention. Climate change remains a pressing concern, with rising temperatures, erratic weather patterns, and increased frequency of natural disasters. These changes have far-reaching impacts on our ecosystems, agriculture, and communities.
12. To combat climate change, we must intensify our efforts to reduce carbon emissions. This involves not only expanding our renewable energy capacity but also promoting energy efficiency and conservation. We must invest in research and development to explore innovative technologies that can help us achieve our climate goals. Collaboration with international partners is crucial, as climate change is a global issue that requires a united response.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. Biodiversity is the backbone of our planet's resilience. Healthy ecosystems provide essential services such as clean air and water, fertile soil, and climate regulation. However, biodiversity loss is accelerating at an alarming rate due to habitat destruction, pollution, and climate change.
14. Our commitment to biodiversity conservation must be unwavering. We must expand and strengthen protected areas, ensuring that they are effectively managed and adequately funded. Community involvement is vital, as local communities are often the best stewards of their natural surroundings. By empowering communities and providing them with the tools and resources they need, we can enhance biodiversity conservation efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

FOSTERING ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION AND AWARENESS

15. Education and awareness are paramount in our journey towards sustainability. It is our duty to foster a culture of environmental stewardship among our youth. Schools, colleges, and universities should be hubs of environmental education, where students learn about the importance of sustainability and are inspired to take action.

16. We must also engage with the public through campaigns and initiatives that raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainable lifestyles. Every individual has a role to play in protecting our environment, whether it is reducing plastic usage, conserving water, or supporting green technologies.
17. The challenges we face are not confined to our borders. Environmental sustainability is a global issue that requires a coordinated and collaborative approach. We must engage with international partners, sharing knowledge, resources, and best practices. By participating in global initiatives and agreements, we can contribute to the collective effort to protect our planet.
18. Our involvement in international forums and organisations allows us to stay at the forefront of environmental advancements and innovations. By collaborating with other nations, we can develop and implement solutions that address global environmental challenges.

Ladies and gentlemen,

SUPPORTING GREEN TECHNOLOGIES AND INNOVATIONS

19. Innovation is at the heart of our sustainability efforts. We must support the development and adoption of green technologies that can drive our transition to a low-carbon economy. From renewable energy sources to sustainable transportation solutions, green technologies have the potential to revolutionise the way we live and work.

20. Economic growth and environmental sustainability are not mutually exclusive. In fact, they are deeply interconnected. Sustainable development is the foundation of a resilient and prosperous economy. By investing in sustainable practices and technologies, we can create new job opportunities, stimulate economic growth, and enhance our quality of life.
21. We must ensure that our policies and regulations promote sustainable development across all sectors. This includes encouraging businesses to adopt sustainable practices, providing incentives for green investments, and integrating environmental considerations into our planning and decision-making processes.

Ladies and gentlemen,

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

22. Our efforts to protect the environment must also focus on building resilient communities. Climate change and environmental degradation disproportionately affect vulnerable communities, exacerbating existing social and economic inequalities. We must ensure that our sustainability efforts are inclusive and equitable, leaving no one behind.

23. By supporting community-based initiatives and empowering local leaders, we can enhance the resilience of our communities. This includes investing in infrastructure that can withstand the impacts of climate change, providing access to clean water and sanitation, and promoting sustainable livelihoods
24. As we move forward, let us remember that every action, no matter how small, contributes to the larger goal of sustainability. Whether it is planting a tree, reducing energy consumption, or advocating for environmental policies, each of us has a role to play in protecting our planet.
25. Our journey towards sustainability is a collective effort. It requires the dedication and commitment of individuals, communities, businesses, and governments. By working together, we can create a future where our natural resources are preserved, our ecosystems thrive, and our society prospers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

CONCLUSION

26. In closing, I urge you all to remain steadfast in your dedication to environmental sustainability. Together, we can overcome the challenges we face and build a brighter, more sustainable future for generations to come. You have already shown great commitment to this journey by just being here.

Continue to support the climate goal in your organisations and the work that you do. Continue to “**green the finance and finance the green**”.

27. I have full confidence that the discussions held today will yield valuable insights, foster fruitful collaborations, and ignite a renewed sense of purpose in our collective pursuit of a sustainable future. Thank you.