



**TEKS UCAPAN
YB DR. XAVIER JAYAKUMAR
MENTERI AIR, TANAH DAN SUMBER ASLI**

**SEMPENA
MAJLIS PERASMIAN SAMBUTAN HARI HIDUPAN LIAR SEDUNIA 2019 &
PRA-PELANCARAN KEMPEN “SELAMATKAN HARIMAU MALAYA”
 (“SAVE OUR MALAYAN TIGER”) 2019 - 2020**

MYTOWN SHOPPING CENTRE, KUALA LUMPUR

17 MAC 2019

**YANG AMAT BERBAHAGIA TUN DR. SITI HASMAH BINTI HAJI
MOHD ALI,**

Penaung Kempen “Selamatkan Harimau Malaya” 2019 – 2020,

Yang Berhormat Menteri-menteri Kabinet,

Your Excellencies,

YBhg. Tan Sri-Tan Sri / Dato’-Dato’ / Datin-Datin,

Tuan-Tuan / Puan-Puan yang saya hormati sekalian.

Selamat Petang dan Salam Sejahtera kepada semua.

Hari ini merupakan hari yang sangat bermakna buat kita semua kerana dapat berkumpul meraikan sambutan Hari Hidupan Liar Sedunia 2019. Saya ingin mengucapkan setinggi-tinggi penghargaan dan terima kasih kepada tetamu kehormat kita, YABhg Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah binti Haji Mohamad Ali, kerana dapat meluangkan masa untuk bersama-sama menyempurnakan majlis kita pada petang ini.

2. Untuk makluman semua, bersempena sambutan Hari Hidupan Liar Sedunia 2019 ini, Kementerian Air, Tanah dan Sumber Asli (KATS) dengan kerjasama Jabatan PERHILITAN Semenanjung Malaysia akan turut melancarkan Kempen “Selamatkan Harimau Malaya” 2019 - 2020 bagi memantapkan penglibatan semua pihak dalam usaha meningkatkan populasi Harimau Malaya yang semakin diancam kepupusan.

Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun dan tuan/puan sekalian

3. Saya memohon izin untuk meneruskan ucapan saya dalam Bahasa Inggeris memandangkan majlis kita ini juga turut dihadiri tetamu daripada pihak kedutaan asing serta tetamu luar Negara. Terima kasih.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. We are blessed to have the presence of our beloved YABhg. Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah to grace this special event, together with Chief Ministers, Cabinet Ministers, and everyone present today. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to our delegates from the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) and Embassy representatives for also being here.

5. Today is such an auspicious day for us. Every 3rd of March, the world celebrates World Wildlife Day. At the international level, the theme used for the 2019 celebration is “Life below water: for people and planet” that was set by the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). For Malaysia, from this year onwards in celebrating the World Wildlife Day, our focus will be on our national pride and heritage, the Malayan Tiger or Harimau Malaya.

6. The Ministry together with PERHILITAN are currently embarking on an intensive 2-year campaign called “Save Our Malayan Tiger”. **We are truly honoured that our beloved YABhg. Tun Dr. Siti Hasmah binti Haji Mohd Ali has agreed to be the patron to the campaign.** Please join me in giving a big warm applause to YABhg. Tun, for her endless support.

7. Tigers have been enigmatic symbols of power, beauty, stealth, strength and survival in Asian cultures and wilderness for centuries. So proud we are of our tigers, that it is one of the symbols in our National Coat of Arms or Jata Negara. Malaysia is one of the 13 Tiger Range Countries that still has a viable tiger population. One of the six (6) subspecies of remaining tiger in the world is the Malayan Tiger or Harimau Malaya which can be found only in Peninsular Malaysia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. Tigers are totally protected species under the Wildlife Conservation Act 2010 [Act 716] and under IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, it is categorised as critically endangered species.

9. Tiger populations have undergone a significant decline over the past century. There are not more than 3,000 tigers in the world today. In Malaysia, based on a survey conducted from 2010 to 2013 at three (3) priorities landscapes for Malayan Tiger; namely Taman Negara National Park, Belum-Temenggor Landscape and Endau-Rompin Landscape, the number of tigers were estimated at about 250-340. However, the numbers have declined and presently **we estimate that Malaysia has less than 200 tigers in the wild.** If we do not act now to preserve the Malayan Tiger, I fear that Harimau Malaya as a national treasure and our pride will go into

extinction and our children and grandchildren will only be able to see this magnificent animal in zoos or in pictures.

10. To correctly and scientifically capture the wild Malayan Tiger population in the country, the Government of Malaysia has allocated RM18.7 million to embark on the 1st National Tiger Survey (1st NTS) for the period of 2016 till 2020. This survey is still in progress within the Central Forest Spine that has been identified as tiger habitats within 8 states in Peninsular Malaysia. The 1st NTS is conducted by PERHILITAN in collaboration with related NGOs such as World Wide Fund (WWF) Malaysia, Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Malaysia, Pertubuhan Pelindung Alam Malaysia (PELINDUNG) and RIMBA.

Ladies and gentlemen,

11. For the long-term security of the tiger habitats in Malaysia, the Federal Government has adopted the National Tiger Conservation Action Plan (NTCAP) and Central Forest Spine Master Plan to undertake concerted efforts to conserve our Malayan Tigers and secure a contiguous forest network including the Malayan Tiger landscapes.

12. Although Malaysia has gazetted the three (3) priority tiger landscapes as protected areas, the management effectiveness of these protected areas must be strengthened further to address poaching of the Malayan Tiger and its prey, which is the most imminent threat faced by our tigers today. In addition, large populations of the Malayan Tiger are also found in various Permanent Forest Reserves within the Central Forest Spine landscape.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

13. The decline in the tiger population in the world including Malaysia is due to various factors such as poaching, illegal trade due to high market demand, and habitat loss. The increase in the number of snares and intrusions of foreign and local residents to tiger habitats have put pressures on the survival of our Malayan Tiger population. **From more than 1,000 operations carried out from 2013 to 2018, an alarming number of 3,500 snares were destroyed and 162 intruders consisting of 98 local citizens and 64 foreigners were arrested for wildlife crime offenses. However, during the same period, sadly to say a total of 14 tigers were known to have been snared or being killed.**

14. **The time has come to stop the killings of Malayan Tigers and other wildlife by these ruthless poachers!!** Today on the World Wildlife Day, **I am declaring War against Poachers!!** This will be an agenda and commitment for all Malaysians. In escalating efforts to ensure the protection of Malayan Tiger, **the government will increase the number of patrolling on the ground under the Tiger Protection and Patrolling Programme (TP3).** The Ministry through PERHILITAN together with the Malaysian Armed Forces and Polis DiRaja Malaysia will reinforce this campaign via the implementation of **Boots on the Ground programme** targeting at hotspots to protect the tiger habitats. This full-time round the clock patrolling in the tiger habitats is crucial in ensuring that tigers are protected from poachers who brutally set up snares for our Malayan Tigers. Other efforts will be undertaken concurrently such as tiger and prey species breeding programmes and increasing the population of wildlife at key protection areas.

15. It is also alarming that wildlife cybercrimes are also on the increase every year. Our Malayan Tiger and its parts are sold through an online platform. This illegal activity has contributed to the increasing demand of wildlife and will lead to hastening the extinction of our wildlife especially Malayan Tiger. **To curb this wildlife cybercrime, a task force comprising relevant agencies in combatting the wildlife criminals has been established and is in full operation.**

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. The Government has undertaken a lot of efforts in ensuring the conservation of wildlife specifically the Malayan Tiger. However, I strongly believe that it should not be the responsibility of the Government alone. The corporate bodies, NGOs, academia and the media should share the responsibilities to create awareness among the younger generation and garnering public support for tiger conservation and wildlife protection. **I also call upon the support of all Malaysians to come together and support the Government's efforts in fulfilling our commitments to conserve the Malayan Tiger, a species that is the pride of the country, the symbol of sovereignty of the Government of Malaysia. Lets make this an agenda for all Malaysians.**

17. Towards this end, the Ministry has established the Biodiversity Conservation Trust Fund. We welcome companies and other agencies to contribute to this trust fund for the enforcement, conservation and awareness activities that have been planned for this 2-year campaign.

18. Last but not least, I would also like to take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to the Global Tiger Forum (GTF) for the support in assisting the Tiger Range Countries, including Malaysia, in ensuring the survival of

tigers in the wild for the future. I look forward for Malaysia to host the next Tiger Ministerial Meeting in 2020 to strengthen tiger conservation agenda among the TRCs, including trans-boundary protected areas and tiger conservation programmes at the Malaysia-Thailand borders. Malaysia is committed to the global commitment enshrined under the Global Tiger Recovery Plan (GTRP). The GTRP was adopted at the Tiger Summit 2010 in Russia to be implemented by the Tiger Range Countries (TRCs) with the coordination and assistance of Global Tiger Forum (GTF).

Yang Amat Berbahagia Tun dan tuan/puan sekalian

19. Kementerian sekali lagi ingin mengajak seluruh masyarakat Malaysia dan antarabangsa untuk bersama-sama memberikan sumbangan dalam usaha memulihara Harimau Malaya kita yang semakin diancam kepupusan. Melalui penyatuan pelbagai pihak dalam usaha menyelamatkan Harimau Malaya ini, diharapkan Malaysia akan terus kekal sebagai salah satu negara yang kaya dengan sumber biodiversiti di dunia. Marilah kita bersama pastikan Harimau Malaya tidak pupus dan simbol harimau pada Jata Negara kita kekal relevan selama-lamanya.

Jom bersama Selamatkan Harimau Malaya Kita (Save Our Malayan Tiger)!!

Sekian, terima kasih.