



## **SPEECH**

**YB DR XAVIER JAYAKUMAR  
MINISTER OF WATER, LAND AND  
NATURAL RESOURCES**

**3<sup>RD</sup> WONDERFUL WORLD INTERNATIONAL  
STUDENT PUBLIC WELFARE MEDIA  
ART EXHIBITION 2019**

**KDU UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, UTROPOLIS,  
GLENMARIE**

**1 JUNE 2019 (SATURDAY)**

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**YBHG. DATUK ZURINAH BINTI PAWANTEH,**  
Secretary General,  
Ministry of Water, Land And Natural Resources;

**YBHG. DATUK ABDUL KADIR BIN HASHIM,**  
Director General,  
The Department of Wildlife and National Parks  
Peninsular Malaysia,  
(PERHILITAN);

**PROFESSOR DR. HIEW PANG LEANG,**  
Vice Chancellor, KDU University College;

**PROFESSOR YANG JIAN HUA,**  
Dean, Communication and Cartoon Institute,  
Qingtao University of Science and Technology;

Distinguished guests,

Participants,

Members of the media,

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. Foremost, I would like to extend warm greetings and well wishes of YB Dr. Xavier Jayakumar, Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources on the occasion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wonderful World International Student Public Welfare Media Art Exhibition 2019. YB Minister is unable to be here this morning to grace this event due to prior commitments. Nevertheless, YB Dr. Xavier

Jayakumar has asked me to represent and deliver his speech.

2. A very good morning to everyone. It gives me great honour and pleasure to join all of you here this morning. I would like to thank KDU University College and the organizing committee for inviting me to **the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wonderful World International Student Public Welfare Media Art Exhibition**. I would also like to extend a warm welcome to all participants, lecturers and students, who have been attending this event here in KDU University College for the last 3 days.

3. This year marks the third year of this event, and I am delighted to see the programme being held this time in Shanghai and Kuala Lumpur. I am also honoured to witness such an extensive collaboration involving educational institutions from Malaysia, China and many other countries around the world. Congratulations to KDU University

College for representing Malaysia in this programme.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. Our planet has experienced many changes since the birth of mankind. These changes however were often slow and gradual, which has allowed many of us creatures of this world to adapt and continue to survive. The last few centuries however have witnessed rapid changes which was fuelled initially by the industrial revolution and continues until today by our burning desire for infrastructure development and modernisation.

5. As a result, our natural environment and those who strives best in it have suffered. The negative effects of careless approaches towards development have impacted many plant and animal species so much so that they can no longer survive in the new conditions of their changing habitat. As

revealed recently in an exclusive news report by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), over one million plant and animal species are now threatened with extinction due to many reasons, almost all has got to do with human activities.

6. The loss of plant and animal species knows no geographical, cultural and political boundaries. The balance of the whole system will be threatened, even if a small element of an ecosystem breaks down. Increased disasters such as landslides, flash floods and droughts, and increased air, water, noise and light pollutions, have brought an adverse impact and will continue to negatively affect our quality of life. We are thus, at a very critical point of our history where we can no longer simply wait and observe.

Ladies and gentlemen,

7. The conservation of plant and animal species requires collaboration of various stakeholders. The richness of our plant and animal species must be effectively conserved, sustainably managed and wisely utilised for future generations. We must work hand-in-hand to conserve and sustain nature in order to sustain ourselves because without these resources, we couldn't live the way we wanted. It is never too late to take action.

8. For a country like Malaysia, which is one of the richest mega diverse in the world, an integrated approach to conservation is very crucial. Therefore, the Government of Malaysia, through my Ministry is committed in protecting Malaysia's valuable biological diversity and will continue enhancing our efforts towards conserving them.

9. We believe strongly in the importance of conserving the biological diversity for our future generations for we do not want them to suffer the unthinkable fate of living in a world where the splendid variety of our plant and animal species are confined only to texts and images.

10. Hence, with this in mind, I am delighted to see educational institutions like KDU University College play an active role in building up awareness among students on the importance and the need for sustainability efforts, and the personalised actions they can take to make a difference through this year's theme "Man and Animal". Platforms like these are instrumental for us to listen and share ideas on what we can do individually and collectively to contribute significantly to this noble cause.

11. I would also like to thank KDU University College students who have worked around the clock in completing the production of the documentary entitled “**The Malayan Tiger. It’s Now or Never**”, which I believe will be premiered after this. With fewer than 200 Malayan tigers left, my Ministry is compelled to take actions to protect the Malayan Tigers and ensure their continued survival. Hence, it is imperative for us to inform the public our concerns for the Malayan Tigers; a proud symbol of Malaysia’s natural heritage that features prominently in the country’s national emblem.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

12. I would like to convey my gratitude to KDU University College as the main organizer and also thank the other co-organizers that have made this program a success. I would really love to see this kind of programme be held more often in the future.

13. Before I end my speech, on behalf of the Ministry, I would like to congratulate all the participants of this year's event. We hope you will continue to act as agents of change who will carry on the fight to protect and conserve our plant and animal species.

Thank you.

**Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources  
Malaysia**

**1 June 2019**