



**KEMENTERIAN SUMBER ASLI
DAN KELESTARIAN ALAM**

OFFICIATING SPEECH BY

**DATO' SRI ARTHUR JOSEPH KURUP
MINISTER OF NATURAL RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL
SUSTAINABILITY**

**SOFT LAUNCH OF INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABILITY WEEK
2026**

11.00AM | 14 APRIL 2026

**MALAYSIA INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND EXHIBITION CENTRE
(MITEC), KUALA LUMPUR**

Good morning and Salam Malaysia Madani,

[Salutation TBC]

A SHARED VISION FOR OUR FUTURE

1. I am truly pleased and heartened to stand before you today for the soft launch of International Sustainability Week (ISW) 2026. Looking around this room, I see more than just professionals and industry leaders; I see the architects of Malaysia's future. We are gathered here at a defining moment for our nation and our planet, where the dialogue around sustainability is shifting from a quiet necessity to a loud, urgent, and shared purpose.
2. I would like to extend my warmest appreciation to Qube Integrated Malaysia Sdn Bhd and GreenRE Sdn Bhd. Your vision to bring this landmark initiative to life is a testament to the power of collaboration. For the very first time, we are witnessing a beautiful synergy where the International Green Building Conference—now in its sixth instalment—will run side-by-side with GreenScape: International Green Innovation Exhibition. This September, here at MITEC, these two pillars will combine to form International Sustainability Week.
3. This is the kind of convergence my Ministry (NRES) deeply values. It is a space where technology meets policy, where capital finds purpose, and where industry leaders like yourselves can engage in the honest, difficult, but necessary conversations that lead to real change. We are not just here to talk; we are here to co-create a legacy.

THE HEART OF OUR BUILT ENVIRONMENT

4. When we speak about sustainability, we often talk in numbers and percentages. But behind the data that tells us cities account for 70% of energy-related emissions and buildings contribute 39%, there is a human story. Our buildings are where our children grow, where our businesses thrive, and where our communities find their identity.
5. How we design, retrofit, and breathe life into these spaces will determine the quality of life for future generations of Malaysians. At NRES, we see the built environment not as a challenge to be managed, but as an opportunity to be seized. We have been working rigorously to put frameworks in place that support you in this transition.
6. Our National Policy on Climate Change is not just a document on a shelf; it is a call to integrate nature back into our urban lives—through urban forests, permeable surfaces, and nature-based solutions. We want our cities to breathe again. Malaysia's commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions as early as 2050 is a bold promise we have made to our children. This journey is anchored in a low-carbon transition that seeks to cut emission intensity by 45% by 2030.

EMPOWERING PROGRESS THROUGH BUDGET 2026

7. I understand that for many of you, the path to "green" can feel like a steep climb. This is why the government has designed Budget 2026 with a spirit of partnership. We have allocated *Four Hundred Nineteen Point Two Billion Ringgit* (RM419.2) billion under the MADANI Economy framework—a budget that is fundamentally about the Rakyat and about rewarding those who take bold steps toward a better future.

8. We want to make the business case for sustainability undeniable. Let me highlight a few ways we are supporting you:

- Green Investment Tax Allowance (GITA): We are providing a 100% allowance for companies adopting locally certified green technology under the MyHIJAU Mark. We want to lower the hurdles so you can invest in the energy-efficient systems of tomorrow.
- GTFS 5.0: We have extended the Green Technology Financing Scheme with RM1 billion through 2026. With government guarantees of up to 80% for waste technologies and 60% for energy projects, we are working to ensure that financing is never the reason a brilliant green project stays on the drawing board.
- Adaptive Reuse Incentives: We are introducing a 10% special tax deduction for retrofitting commercial buildings. We believe in the beauty of revitalizing what we already have, making our existing urban centers more liveable and energy-efficient.

9. Beyond these incentives, we are laying the groundwork for a more transparent future. The National Climate Change Bill will introduce a Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) system. This is about building trust—a national carbon registry that ensures every kilogram of carbon reduced is verified and valued. I encourage you to see this not as a regulation, but as a roadmap to a more competitive global standing.

RESILIENCE AS A STRATEGIC ADVANTAGE

10. In today's world, energy is no longer just a utility we pay for; it is a strategic resource that we must protect. With global uncertainties making energy prices volatile, efficiency is our greatest shield.
11. Every unit of energy saved is a buffer against volatility. Green buildings are, quite simply, future-proof assets. The market is already reflecting this—investors and tenants are seeking out spaces that are efficient and resilient. To ignore this shift is to risk being left behind by the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Act (EECA) 2024 and the evolving expectations of international capital.

FROM CERTIFICATION TO TRUE TRANSFORMATION

12. The theme for ISW 2026 "From Certification to Transformation, Building a Net Zero Future Together" resonates deeply with me. It acknowledges that while certificates are important, they are only the beginning of the story.

13. I must sincerely commend GreenRE. Reaching 500 million square feet of certified building space is a monumental milestone. It signals that Malaysia is not just following global trends; we are leading them. The fact that GreenRE's homegrown certification is now gaining traction beyond Malaysia, including in international markets, shows that we have the talent and the vision to export our sustainability expertise to the world. However, let us remember that the true measure of our success will not be the plaques on our walls, but the measurable reduction in our carbon footprint and the tangible improvement in our resource efficiency.

AN INVITATION TO COLLABORATE

14. I see my role as the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability and the role of the government as an enabler. We are here to provide the clear skies and the firm ground you need to grow. But the government cannot walk this path alone.

15. We need an ecosystem where everyone plays their part. We need developers who aim higher than the minimum standard, investors who look at long-term value over short-term gain, and local authorities who turn national policy into neighborhood reality.

16. Sustainability must be inclusive. It should not be a luxury reserved for a few; it must be a pathway to a better life for all Malaysians. It is about creating homes that are cooler, offices that are more productive, and cities that are more resilient for everyone.

CLOSING

17. The journey from ambition to action is well underway. We have the policies, we have the technology, and the financing is becoming more accessible. What we need now is scale. We need to move from isolated "pilot projects" to a nationwide movement that is visible in every street and every skyline.
18. International Sustainability Week 2026 is where this scale begins. Use this platform to challenge one another, to share your failures as much as your successes, and to lead with courage.
19. Malaysia is perfectly positioned to be a regional powerhouse in sustainable development. Let us show the world what we can achieve when we build together.
20. On that note, it is my absolute pleasure and honor to officially launch the soft opening of International Sustainability Week 2026.

Thank you.