

YAB DATO' SRI HAJI FADILLAH BIN HAJI YUSOF
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
AND MINISTER OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND WATER
TRANSFORMATION (PETRA)

POST-PLENARY SESSION 3:
YOUTH, EDUCATION AND TALENT DEVELOPMENT:
EMPOWERING LOCAL TALENT TO DRIVE ENERGY
TRANSFORMATION

21 AUGUST 2024 | WEDNESDAY
KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE (KLCC)

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

(Salutations)

Assalamualaikum WBT, Salam Sejahtera and Salam Malaysia MADANI

Introduction

1. As we conclude this pivotal plenary session focused on youth, education, and talent development, I stand before you with hope and conviction that we are not just discussing the future but are charting a course for a monumental shift, a shift that will redefine our relationship with energy and transform our world into a more sustainable one.

2. In the context of the energy sector, we find ourselves at a crossroads where the imperative to transition to a more sustainable future has never been more urgent. Climate change and dwindling energy resources compel us to seek innovative solutions, adopt sustainable practices, and take collective actions. As we embark on this great transition, a fundamental question arises, Who will lead the charge?

3. Make no mistake as I am a fervent believer that our young people will be the custodians of tomorrow's sustainable energy landscape. They are the visionaries, the problem solvers, and the agents of change. It is therefore incumbent upon us that those in positions of influence and authority must empower these young minds to seize the opportunity and guide us towards a brighter future for all of us.

Empowering Local Talent to Drive Energy Transition

Ladies and Gentlemen,

4. While Malaysia has historically relied on fossil fuels, we now recognize the imperative to pivot towards clean energy solutions. As we embark on this energy transition journey, it is our duty to ensure that this endeavor is equitable and inclusive. We acknowledge that this is a generational challenge, one that may alter perspectives, transform business practices and render many jobs obsolete. However, by identifying transferable skills and implementing comprehensive reskilling and upskilling initiatives, we can ensure that no one is left behind.

5. To facilitate this transition effectively, we must engage in focused and intentional training initiatives. The challenges surrounding competency gaps and their impacts on efficiency and productivity in our industry have been well documented. As such we must overhaul our talent development strategies by reconfiguring our systems to promote upskilling and reskilling at every level. This is not merely about filling positions but strategically cultivating a sustainable talent pipeline particularly amongst our youth.

Developing Human Capital and Energy-Literate Youth

Ladies and Gentlemen,

6. As Malaysia confronts the challenges and opportunities presented by the evolving energy landscape, we recognize that roles in emerging sectors such as sustainable energy are not just possibilities but necessities. We must nurture new energy engineers, smart city architects, and professionals in energy accounting, auditing and legal areas among others to ensure our workforce is prepared for the future.

7. To fully transition to a greener future, we must cultivate an energy literate society by understanding energy supply, sources, consumption patterns and the environmental implications of each decision of our choices. Recognizing this need, the MADANI government has established the Malaysia Energy Literacy Program (MELP), an initiative aimed at educating our citizens with reliable energy information and fostering a community of informed decision-makers ready to advocate energy sustainability.

8. MELP is an innovative educational program collaboratively developed by Universiti Tenaga Nasional (UNITEN) and Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM). This program seeks to impart energy-related knowledge at institutions of higher learning and enabling students to devise energy-efficient strategies that contribute to environmental sustainability.

Encouraging Youth Entrepreneurs and Innovators

Ladies and Gentlemen,

9. Engaging our youth in this journey is of paramount importance. By investing in their education we can form the foundation upon which we can build a sustainable future. Educational programs focusing on sustainable energy and technological innovation must be fundamental,

not optional or supplementary. We must equip our youth not only for current jobs but also for the challenges that lies ahead.

10. Moving forward, I envision a future where our youth are empowered not only to consume energy sustainably but also to lead discussions on energy solutions. I am confident they will champion policies that prioritize sustainability and continuously challenge the status quo. Here I would like to urge our young entrepreneurs and innovators to venture into the renewable and new energy sector to support the government's efforts in accelerating the country's energy transition agenda.

Conclusion

12. Let us remember that the success of our energy transition relies on the active involvement of all segments of our society. By equipping them with the necessary skills, knowledge, and opportunities, we are not only investing in their future but also ensuring the long-term reliability and sustainability of our energy landscape.

13. I trust this Plenary session has offered invaluable insights into the role and potentials of our youth in propelling a successful energy transition endeavor.

Finally, I would like to humbly extend my gratitude to all of you for your extensive participation in this plenary session.

Wabillahitaufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi
Wabarakatuh. Thank You