



MINISTRY OF ENERGY TRANSITION AND

## KEYNOTE SPEECH

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

**WATER LOSS ASIA 2024**

**19 NOVEMBER 2024 (TUESDAY)**

**ROYAL CHULAN HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

(Salutations)

Assalamualaikum WBT and Salam Malaysia MADANI

1. First and foremost, let us express our gratitude to Allah SWT for granting us the opportunity to assemble here this morning for the 10th edition of Water Loss Asia 2024, an event that will have a huge and lasting impact on the water management landscape of our country. It gives me great pleasure to be here today at this event with all the experts, leaders, and innovators from around the world. The vibrant energy of this event is a testament to our collective will to address the critical challenges of water loss and carbon emissions in Asia.
2. I extend a warm welcome to our esteemed guests, distinguished industry leaders and committed stakeholders. Your presence underscores our shared commitment to this critical challenge.
3. My heartiest congratulations and appreciation to the organiser, PROTEMPT Exhibitions & Conferences, for their dedication and commitment to convening top-tier professionals and communities from the water industry. Their commitment to showcasing cutting-edge solutions, technology, and product, is instrumental in paving the way toward a more sustainable water future.

## **CHALLENGES AND WAY FORWARD**

Distinguished guest, ladies and gentlemen,

4. The responsibility over energy and water are now placed under one Ministry, **the Ministry of Energy Transition and Water Transformation or PETRA**. This ministry will from now on be taking an interest in a broader range of water issues which will largely centre around the approach on water transformation.
5. I would like to bring your attention to the fact that Malaysia has one of the most organised water infrastructures in Southeast Asia, and it has made significant progress in providing access to clean water and sanitation for its population. However, the Malaysian water industry is not without its challenges.
6. One of the most pressing issues we face in the water sector nowadays is **Non-Revenue Water (NRW)**, which remains at an alarming level in Malaysia. These unaccounted water losses result in substantial financial losses for the country and undermine our efforts to ensure water security. I see **Water Loss Asia 2024** as a highly relevant platform for bringing together stakeholders to address this issue with serious commitment.
7. Water Loss Asia 2024 is not merely an exhibition and conference, but also an invaluable opportunity to share technology, knowledge, and best practices in reducing NRW. With strategic collaboration among public, private, and international sectors, I hope this event will accelerate the implementation of innovative solutions to reduce water loss in Malaysia.

Ladies and gentlemen,

8. The National Water Services Commission (SPAN) reported that the national average NRW for the year 2023 was 37.1 percent, translated into a waste of 7,195 million litres of treated water daily with a total loss of more than RM2 billion a year.
9. As of 2023, urban and rural water supply access coverage was at 97.1% respectively. Meanwhile, connected sewerage services covered 86.9% of the main cities. Our target by the end of 2025 is to achieve 98% coverage of clean water and sewerage coverage in rural areas. This initiative aligns with the Malaysia MADANI primary objective of enhancing the well-being of its people while supporting the 6<sup>th</sup> goal of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 6) – ensuring access to sustainable water management and sanitation for all.
10. In our efforts to achieve this goal, we must optimise operations across the entire water industry. This means using our resources more efficiently, minimising waste, and maximising the value we get from every drop of water. Therefore, the implementation of the National Non-Revenue Water (NRW) Programme will be enhanced to further reduce NRW percentage to 31% by 2025 in line with our national target. Key initiatives under this enhancement include:
  - (i) **Critical Pipe Replacement Program:** Replacement of 1,844 km of aging, critical pipes across Malaysia.
  - (ii) **Holistic NRW Solutions (Approach 1):** Implementation of holistic NRW reduction solutions for the states of Pahang, Kelantan, Perlis, Sabah, Sarawak, and WP Labuan.

- (iii) **Proportional Reimbursement Rate (Approach 2):** Introduction of a proportional reimbursement rate to promote active participation of water operators in Selangor, Johor, Negeri Sembilan, Melaka, Terengganu, Perak, Penang, and Kedah.

## **THE LAUNCHING OF AIR 2040**

- 11. Additionally, we are guided by the Water Transformation Roadmap 2040, or **AIR 2040**, which was launched on 29 October 2024. **AIR 2040** represents our nation's commitment to sustainability and secure water supply for the long term. Over the next two decades, our goal is to achieve ambitious yet critical objectives that ensure the water sector is not only sustainable but also a catalyst for Malaysia's economic growth. I am confident that this initiative will strengthen our economy, create quality job opportunities, and drive advancements in science, technology, and innovation.
- 12. I look forward to this event supporting the aspirations of **AIR 2040** in three key areas:
  - i. First, **Creating an Efficient Water Management Ecosystem** – where reducing NRW can increase the efficiency and sustainability of water supply for future generations;
  - ii. Second, **Driving Technology Development and R&D in the Water Industry** – by promoting innovative technology in water management, we can unlock new economic opportunities that will contribute to national growth; and
  - iii. Third, **Strengthening Malaysia as a Regional Hub for Water**

**Management by 2040** – I hope that all industry players here will play a crucial role in positioning Malaysia as a center of excellence in water management, not only at the national level but across the ASEAN region.

13. In this context, the imperative for water transformation in Malaysia cannot be overstated. It demands a comprehensive approach that integrates technological innovation, policy reform, community engagement, and international cooperation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

## **STRATEGIC COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP**

14. It is a pivotal role that governments, policymakers, industry leaders, and stakeholders play in driving forward our water transformation agenda. It is through collaborative partnerships and concerted action that we will be able to overcome the complex challenges that lie ahead.
15. Fostering partnerships between government agencies, private sector stakeholders, civil society organisations, and academic institutions is indispensable to drive collective action and mobilise resources for efficient water management initiatives. By harnessing the collective expertise, creativity, and resources of diverse stakeholders, Malaysia can chart a course toward a reduction of clean and safe-treated water loss during the distribution of water supply from the water treatment plant to consumers.
16. Technology and innovation are essential tools. From advanced

water treatment processes to smart water management systems, the innovations showcased here at Water Loss Asia exemplify the transformative potential of technology in revolutionising the way we manage, conserve, and utilise our precious water resources.

17. Under the overarching theme of "Asian Perspectives on Water Loss Management and Carbon Reduction," Water Loss Asia 2024 encapsulates the urgency with which we must confront the profound challenges posed by climate change to our water security. This theme resonates deeply with the pressing need for innovation and resilience in our approach to water management.

## **CONCLUSION**

Ladies and gentlemen,

18. At the heart of our water transformation journey, I firmly believe in the indispensable role of community engagement and empowerment. Through education, awareness, and capacity-building initiatives, we can foster a culture of water stewardship that transcends borders and generations. Water Loss Asia 2024 serves as a catalyst for meaningful change and delivers effective resolutions to strengthen our national water management. Let us work together towards achieving the goals of AIR 2040 and making water a sustainable economic driver for our country.
19. As we embark on this momentous occasion, I urge all stakeholders gathered here today to heed the call to action. Let us commit ourselves to tangible actions and initiatives that support our shared vision of a sustainable water future. Together, through partnerships

and concerted action, we can overcome the challenges and build a legacy of water resilience for generations to come.

20. Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the organisers, experts, exhibitors, and participants of Water Loss Asia 2024 for their unwavering dedication and commitment to advancing water sustainability in the Asia-Pacific region. Together, let us seize this opportunity to chart a course toward a future where every individual has access to clean, safe, and reliable water.
21. With *Bismillahirrahmanirrahim*, it is my great pleasure to officially open Water Loss Asia 2024.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah, Wassalamualaikum w.b.t

Thank you.