



SPEECH:

**YAB DATO' SERI DR. AHMAD ZAHID BIN HAMIDI
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:
INVEST MALAYSIA 2026**

**ON:
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2.30 PM**

**VENUE:
MANDARIN ORIENTAL,
KUALA LUMPUR**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim.

**Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,
Salam Sejahtera.**

OPENING

Ladies and gentlemen,

1. We meet at a defining moment for the global economy. Geopolitical tensions continue to reshape trade. Supply chains are being redrawn. Technology is changing industries faster than many institutions can adapt. Around the world, investors are not only searching for returns. They are searching for resilience, clarity and confidence.
2. Malaysia understands this new reality. We do not view uncertainty merely as a challenge to be endured, but as a moment to be seized. In times of global realignment, capital will move towards economies that are stable, open, competitive and clear in their direction.
3. This is where Malaysia stands today. We are not beginning from hesitation. We are moving from a position of strength. The foundations have been laid. Investor confidence is

rising. The task before us now is clear - **to move from execution to Malaysia's next leap.**

4. And to all of you gathered here today, your presence reflects more than interest in Malaysia. It reflects confidence in our direction, belief in our potential, and a shared commitment to the growth story we are building together.

MALAYSIA'S CONFIDENCE: MOVING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION

Ladies and gentlemen,

5. Over the past year, Malaysia has shown that discipline and stability can deliver results. **Our economy grew by 5.2 per cent in 2025, and expanded further by 5.4 per cent in the first quarter of this year.** The fiscal deficit narrowed, inflation moderated, and unemployment stood at its lowest level in a decade.
6. These outcomes did not happen by chance. They reflect policy clarity, economic discipline and the political stability required to make decisions that are necessary for long-term

national strength. More importantly, they reflect a growing confidence that Malaysia is moving in the right direction.

7. In many of my engagements with business leaders, investors and industry players, one message comes through clearly - **Malaysia is being looked at with renewed interest. Not only because of where we are located, but because of where we are heading.**
8. That is the real story of Malaysia today. We are attracting capital that looks to the future - into advanced manufacturing, semiconductors, digital infrastructure, renewable energy and high-value services. These are sectors that create quality jobs, strengthen domestic capabilities and place Malaysia higher in the regional and global value chain.
9. This is why we take confidence in Malaysia's position today. In a fragmented world, Malaysia remains connected. In a more uncertain world, Malaysia remains dependable. In a more competitive world, Malaysia remains open for business.

CAPITAL MARKET AS MALAYSIA'S NEXT GROWTH ENGINE

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. But investment momentum alone is not enough. A country's ability to grow depends not only on how much capital it attracts, but how effectively that capital is mobilised, allocated and transformed into long-term value.
11. This is where I believe, Malaysia's capital market becomes central to our next leap. It connects ambition with opportunity. It enables entrepreneurs to scale, companies to innovate and investors to participate in Malaysia's growth story.
12. Today, the Malaysian capital market stands as one of the key strengths of our economy. **In 2025, its size reached RM4.3 trillion, more than twice the nation's GDP. Funds raised rose to RM187.7 billion, while 60 IPOs were listed. Our Islamic capital market also grew to RM2.7 trillion**, reinforcing Malaysia's position as a global leader in this space.

13. In my engagements with rural business owners, entrepreneurs and young founders, I often hear the same aspiration. They want their ideas to travel further. They want their products to reach wider markets. **They want access to capital, trust from investors and a pathway to grow beyond where they began.**
14. This is why our capital market is no longer simply a financing platform. It is a national growth engine. It must help channel capital into the sectors and enterprises that matter most for our future.
15. For Malaysia's next leap, this role must become even more important. We need a capital market that supports companies not only when they are already large, but when they are ready to grow. We need a market that helps promising enterprises move from local strength to regional scale and from regional scale to global exposure.
16. This matters because the future economy will reward countries that can move capital with purpose. It will reward markets that are trusted, companies that are well governed and economies that can turn investment into real productivity.

17. InsyaAllah, Malaysia is building that ecosystem. A capital market that does not merely raise funds, but unlocks ambition. A capital market that does not merely support companies, but helps create national champions.

MY VALUE UP: FROM COMPLIANCE TO VALUE CREATION

Ladies and gentlemen,

18. This brings me to an important point. **Malaysia's next phase of market development must be anchored not only in size, but in quality.** Investors today are looking for stronger governance, better capital allocation and clearer strategy. **Yes, profit matters. But in today's market, companies must also be credible, sustainable and accountable.**
19. **This is the purpose of MY Value Up.** It moves our market from a ***culture of compliance to a culture of active value creation.*** It encourages companies to look beyond quarterly performance, communicate their long-term strategies with greater clarity, and demonstrate how they intend to build enduring value.

20. Hence, to reinforce the MY Value Up agenda, **I am pleased to announce that the largest GLICs namely EPF, PNB and KWAP — will allocate a portion of their capital to support companies that demonstrate a strong commitment to value creation and the adoption of MY Value Up principles.**
21. This will ensure that companies embracing stronger governance, better capital allocation and higher standards of transparency are recognised not only by the market, but also by Malaysia's largest institutional investors.
22. This is an important signal. Malaysia wants a capital market that is not only larger, but better. Creating a market that rewards discipline, accountability and long-term value creation. We want Malaysian companies to be better governed, better valued and better prepared to compete regionally and globally.
23. But essentially I see this beyond the market alone. I see it in the economy we want to build. **The true measure of success is not only how much capital we attract, but how far that capital creates jobs, opens opportunities and improves lives.**

24. I want growth to reach our SMEs, TVET students, entrepreneurs, youth, rural communities and regional growth centres. **A strong capital market must support not only large corporations, but the wider ecosystem of enterprise, innovation and opportunity.**

CLOSING

Ladies and gentlemen,

25. Malaysia enters this next phase with confidence. Our fundamentals are strong. Our investment momentum is clear. Our capital market is growing. Our companies are being challenged to create greater value and our institutions are aligned towards a more competitive future.
26. But the next chapter will not be written by plans alone. It will be written by execution. By how quickly we move. By how clearly we decide. By how strongly government, investors, institutions and industry work together.
27. Malaysia's next leap will not be defined by the uncertainty around us, but by the clarity and execution within us. Together, let us transform reform into results, investment into value, and ambition into achievement.

Thank you.