



SPEECH

**THE HONOURABLE DATO' SRI ISMAIL SABRI YAAKOB, MINISTER
OF RURAL AND REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

DINNER AND AMRDPE AWARD 2017

**10TH ASEAN MINISTERIAL MEETING ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND POVERTY ERADICATION**

**GRAND BALLROOM, MARRIOTT HOTEL,
KUALA LUMPUR**

**6th OCTOBER 2017 (FRIDAY)
TIME ARRIVAL : 8.15 P.M**

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullaahi Wabarakaatuh and a very good evening to Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen.

1. I would like to express my appreciation and gratitude to His Excellency, Mr. Vongthep Artha Kaivalvatee, Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Communities, and to all Ministers and Deputy Ministers of ASEAN Member States for being with us tonight. I would also like to express my gratitude to all delegates for their contributions for the past five days. Not to forget, the representatives from China, Japan and Republic of Korea for their continuous support to ASEAN Member States in rural development and poverty eradication.

2. I would also like to welcome guests from Non-Governmental Organizations, Corporate Social Organizations and Private Sectors, as well as Ministries and Agencies to the dinner.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Malaysia is honored to have the opportunity to host the 10th AMRDPE and related meetings. I appreciate your contribution towards the progress of our region especially in terms of rural development and poverty eradication. This shows that with unity we can make all things possible.

4. Tonight, I have the privilege to host a dinner in conjunction with the 3rd ASEAN Leadership Award on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. The award was introduced in 2013 during the 8th AMRDPE meeting in Indonesia. This award is to recognize the contributions of NGO's in rural community development and poverty eradication. This year, we have extended the award to recognize the contribution of the private sectors. The objectives of the ASEAN Leadership Award on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication is to recognize the roles, outstanding achievements and contributions of Non-Governmental Organizations as well as the private sectors in ASEAN Member States towards community development, livelihood and poverty reduction of local communities.

5. The Award is to encourage the NGO's, CSO's and the private sectors to continue and strengthen their work and contributions to rural community development as well as poverty eradication in their respective countries, and in a broader context, to the ASEAN Community building.

6. It is also expected to promote inclusiveness through closer cooperation and partnerships between the Governments, NGO's/CSO' and the private sector in developing the rural areas, communities and eradicating poverty in ASEAN Member States. In the spirit of promoting a people-oriented ASEAN, the Awards will promote ASEAN awareness amongst the NGO's/CSO's and private sectors to bring ASEAN closer to people's heart.

7. In Malaysia, the NGO's/ CSO's and private sector plays an important role in assisting the Government in improving the living standard of rural people is undeniable. As stated in the Socio-Cultural Communities vision, to promote People Public Private Partnership, Malaysia has taken a step to emulate this effort. For example is *TABIKA KEMAS* collaboration with private sector under Corporate Social Responsibility. We have received assistance from the private sector to repair and upgrade nursery and kindergarten.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. The Government of Malaysia is also focusing on developing the rural youth by introducing many programs such as Rural Business Challenge, Mobile-Preneur, Multi-skilling Courses, Entrepreneurship Courses and Technical and Vocational Education Training. These programs are meant to increase the productivity of the rural youth, hence improving their income. I am made to understand some of the delegates have gone for a field trip to the 21st Century Village under the Economic Activities. I hope this is beneficial and perhaps can be considered the holistic rural development approach.

9. To ensure the rural communities are benefited from the development, the Government of Malaysia has implemented a bottom up approach where we engage the communities for future developments. The rural communities have a better understanding on the best approach for the development in their respective area. In this regard, I believe all sectors should work together for the benefit of the rural communities.

10. I hope that you will have a wonderful stay in Malaysia. Please take the time to go for sightseeing and shopping before you return home. Do enjoy our various food and delicacies. Feel free to approach us if you would like to view our rural development program. I pray for your safe journey back home and please do not hesitate to come again to Malaysia in the future.

Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabaraakatuh,

Thank you, Terima kasih, Matur Nuwun, Salamat Po, Khop Khun, Khop Chai, Kyay Zuu Tin Bar Tei, Cam On.