



**SPEECH:**

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

**FOR:**

**THE INDUSTRY ADVISORY COUNCIL SUMMIT AT GMI**

**DATE:**

**5 MARCH 2024 (TUESDAY)**

**8.00 AM**

**VENUE:**

**FEISOL HASSAN-HALLE, GERMAN MALAYSIA INSTITUTE  
(GMI)**

Assalamuálaikum, warahmatullahi wabarakatuh.

Salam Malaysia MADANI and very Good Evening

### **<SALUTATION>**

1. It is truly an honour to address this distinguished audience on behalf of the people of Malaysia, and I am deeply thankful for the warm welcome and the opportunity to engage in this dialogue of great importance.
2. As we convene here today, amidst this esteemed gathering of leaders, policymakers, educators, and industry representatives, we find ourselves at a pivotal moment in the trajectory of our nation's development. Central to our discussions lies the future of Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) in Malaysia - a subject of paramount importance that resonates deeply with the aspirations of our youth and the imperatives of our economy.
3. I come bearing a vision and a commitment to shape the future of TVET in our country. As the Chairman of the National TVET Council (MTVET), I embrace the full weight and significance of this task. In this capacity, I am dedicated to crafting a

comprehensive blueprint that will not only impart skills and knowledge but also mould the aspirations and opportunities of our youth.

4. Malaysia, like many other nations, stands at a pivotal crossroads where the skills of our workforce have never been more vital. The challenges of the 21st century demand a workforce that is adaptable, innovative, and well-equipped to navigate the complexities of the modern world. In this regard, we find common ground with Germany, a country renowned for boasting one of the world's most successful vocational education programs.
5. In late October 2023, I had the privilege of leading a delegation to Berlin, Germany, alongside representatives from MARA and my ministry. Our objective was clear: to glean insights and wisdom from Germany's experiences, to learn from the best practices that have elevated the German vocational program to an international benchmark. We sought to understand the intricacies and practical approaches that have propelled Germany into a global powerhouse of skilled labour and innovation.

6. Germany's vocational program stands as a shining example of industry-academia collaboration at its finest. It is a model that has been proven to work, spearheaded by industry leaders and enriched by an academic curriculum at all levels. The success stories emerging from Germany, orchestrated and guided by the German Chamber of Commerce, alongside companies like Bosch leading the way - are a testament to the efficacy of this approach.
  
7. It is this very success that brings me here today. Malaysia looks to Germany with admiration and respect. We see in your model a path to success, and we believe it is a path we must tread if we are to secure a prosperous and sustainable future for our youth and our nation.

Ladies and gentlemen,

## **SHARED COMMITMENT TO FOSTERING COLLABORATION AND DRIVING INNOVATION IN THE TVET SECTOR**

8. Today, as I stand before you in the presence of esteemed representatives from the German business community in Malaysia, I am filled with optimism and confidence. It reaffirms my belief that the German community stands shoulder to

shoulder with us in our endeavour to translate the aspirations outlined in the Malaysian TVET Blueprint into tangible reality.

9. I am pleased to announce that today marks a significant milestone, with several Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) set to be established, including the appointment of Industry Advisory Council Members. These agreements signify the strengthening of business engagements between our two nations.
10. Furthermore, I am delighted to learn that many Malaysian Multi-National Companies (MNCs) have expressed their interest in participating and contributing inputs and ideas to enhance the TVET Blueprint. This collaboration is timely, occurring just before the finalization and launching of the statute. I extend a warm welcome to all participating companies and individuals, as your contributions will be invaluable in shaping the future of TVET in Malaysia.
11. Our vision is clear - to establish a blueprint that is tailored to the unique needs and aspirations of Malaysia. We understand that this journey will require dedication, collaboration, and the exchange of knowledge between our nations. And in this journey, we look to Germany as a

resourceful and knowledgeable partner, one that will assist us in our pursuit of excellence in vocational education and training.

Ladies and gentlemen.

## **FACING TVET CHALLENGES BY ADOPTING HOLISTIC APPROACH**

12. As we delve deeper into the TVET landscape in Malaysia, we must acknowledge the challenges that lie ahead. The TVET sector has made significant strides in recent years, yet there is much work to be done to address the prevailing issues and unlock its full potential.
13. To address these challenges, we must adopt a holistic approach that encompasses policy reform, institutional restructuring, and stakeholder engagement. The establishment of the National TVET Council, as outlined in the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP), is a step in the right direction. This council will serve as a platform for optimizing resource utilization, minimizing program duplication, and coordinating various TVET governing systems. It will play a crucial role in shaping TVET policies and programs in Malaysia.

14. Furthermore, the imminent launch of the National TVET Policy in June 2024 marks a significant milestone in our journey towards enhancing the quality and relevance of TVET in Malaysia. The policy framework aims to enhance coordination among 1,345 TVET institutions, comprising 669 under the 12 ministries, 652 private TVET institutions, and 24 under the State Government.
15. Industry collaboration is another key aspect that cannot be overlooked. Close ties with industry stakeholders are fundamental to the success of TVET programs. Through strategic partnerships and collaborative initiatives, we can ensure that TVET curricula remain relevant and responsive to the evolving needs of the industry.
16. Additionally, efforts to promote TVET as a strategic career pathway must be intensified. We must work towards changing public perception and addressing societal biases towards TVET education. By showcasing success stories and highlighting the untold opportunities available through TVET, we can inspire a new generation of students to pursue careers in technical and vocational fields. It is our aim to shift

this perception by promoting TVET as a lucrative and secure career path.

17. In 2022, 40.91% of secondary school leavers entered TVET institutions. Our target is to increase this to 55% by 2025, furthering their education through TVET institutions.
18. The employability rate of TVET institution graduates in Malaysia reached 92.5% in 2022, which is commendable. However, we remain vigilant and strive to maintain a high employability rate among TVET graduates.

Ladies and gentlemen,

### **RECOGNITION BY THE PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA.**

19. Last Saturday, during the Economic Bumiputera Congress 2024, the Prime Minister highlighted TVET in his speech as a crucial component of his strategy for strengthening the Nation's Economic Pillar. One aspect of this strategy is the development of talent within the country. He also commended our efforts in nurturing young talents and enhancing the skills of our TVET students. Furthermore, he



praised the collaborative efforts between local TVET institutions and over 200 industry players.

20. With that said, The Government, in partnership with Government-Linked Investment Companies (GLICs), Government-Linked Companies (GLCs), and selected private entities, is now committed to training up to 100,000 TVET trainees within a five-year period, which includes offering job placements with a targeted salary of at least RM3,500 per month.
21. I firmly believe that only through ample training opportunities and meaningful employment with competitive salaries can the prospects of young talents in Malaysia be transformed, particularly those residing in rural areas.
22. Therefore, today, I urge everyone to support the Prime Minister's announcement and join the effort to contribute to the advancement of the TVET industry.

Ladies and gentlemen,

## **CONCLUSION**

23. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to all the attendees today. Your presence here underscores the importance of our shared mission to elevate vocational education and training in Malaysia. Together, let us forge ahead with determination and commitment, knowing that the future of our nation depends on the skills and talents of our youth.
24. Furthermore, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to our gracious hosts and to each one of you in the audience for your attentive presence and steadfast support. A special thank you goes out to the outstanding teams at MARA, GMI, UNIKL and GIATMARA for their tireless efforts, unwavering commitment, and exemplary leadership. It is through their collaborative efforts and teamwork that this meeting has come to fruition.
25. As we embark on this transformative journey, let us do so with optimism and enthusiasm. We firmly believe that our partnership will not only benefit our respective countries but will also serve as a beacon for others to emulate. We are dedicated to bringing back the knowledge and insights gained here to Malaysia, for the betterment of all.

Thank you.