



KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY

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DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER OF MALAYSIA**

FOR

**AT THE SOFT LAUNCH OF THE MUSLIM WORLD
WOMEN'S SUMMIT 2024**

27TH FEBRUARY 2024,

**MANDARIN ORIENTAL,
KUALA LUMPUR**

Assalamu'alaikum, warahmatullahi wabarakatuh,

Salam Malaysia MADANI and very Good Evening.

<SALUTATION>

1. It is truly an honour to stand before you today at the soft launch of the Muslim World Women's Summit 2024. I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to address such a distinguished audience on a topic of utmost importance – the empowerment of women in the Muslim world.
2. I also warmly welcome all the distinguished guests who accept our invitation and came from different countries to share this moment with us. I wish you all a pleasant stay in our beautiful city of Kuala Lumpur, and I pray this gathering will initiate long-lasting personal friendships and business partnerships.
3. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the organizer, the Association of Muslim World Business, Malaysia, for their dedication and effort in making this event a reality. I am sure that extensive planning and execution is required to organize an event of this scale and I truly commend the efforts taken by the organizer.

4. The Deputy Prime Minister's office is truly honoured and glad to host The Muslim World Women's Summit this year, which will gather women leaders, entrepreneurs, and advocates from across the 57 OIC countries.
5. The theme of this year's summit, "The Powerful Women Next Generation Vanguard of Feminine Power", is both inspiring and timely. The theme encapsulates the essence of empowerment and progress that summit seeks to foster among women across the 57 OIC member states and Muslim World at large.

Ladies & Gentleman,

6. As we gather here today, we are reminded of the rich diversity and cultural heritage that define the Muslim world. From Asia to Africa, from the Middle East to Southeast Asia, Muslim women have played pivotal roles in shaping our societies, contributing to our economies, and enriching our communities.
7. However, despite the progress we have made, we are also aware of the challenges that continue to hinder the full participation of women in all spheres of life. These challenges are complex and multifaceted, ranging from cultural barriers to limited access to education and economic opportunities.

8. As leaders and advocates for change, it is incumbent upon us to address these challenges head-on, to break down the barriers that hold women back, and to create more inclusive and equitable society for all.

Ladies & Gentleman,

9. I am pleased to note that the Muslim World Rania Award 2024 was successfully held last Friday, on the 23rd of February 2024, serving as an incorporating event of The Muslim World Women's Summit. I wish to congratulate all the award recipients and express my sincere hope that everything went well during the award ceremony.
10. The meaning of 'Rania' is derived from the word 'Queen' in Arabic language. It is a name that conveys elegance and majesty. Muslim women have played a pivotal role in shaping our societies, cultures, and economies. We come together not only to acknowledge their outstanding accomplishments but also to reaffirm our commitment to empower and uplift Muslim women on a global scale.
11. The awards are bestowed upon distinguished individuals and accomplished achievers hailing from various regions across the Muslim world. These accolades recognize exemplary commitment to social responsibility in areas

such as entrepreneurship, fostering a positive reputation, fostering collaboration with fellow Muslim nations, and contribute to the economic advancement of the global Muslim community.

12. Within Islam, a profound array of teachings underscores the vital role of women across diverse realms of existence. As leaders, scholars, caregivers, and unwavering pillars of strength, women are bestowed with immense significance. Our faith instils within us the values of profound respect, empowerment, and wholehearted appreciation for the women who grace our lives.

Ladies & Gentleman,

13. In Malaysia, we have embarked on a dedicated journey towards achieving inclusive development, acknowledging that empowerment of women plays a pivotal role in driving our nation's overall prosperity.
14. The current government of Malaysia, under the leadership of Prime Minister YAB Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim, is committed to the prosperity and well-being of the people. The theme of Malaysia MADANI reflects this commitment, placing importance on the empowerment of women and the advancement of the people at large.

15. Malaysia MADANI represents a unique blend of traditional Malaysian practices and innovative approaches to tackle emerging issues and uncertainties. MADANI is founded on the principle of embracing change, incorporating feedback from all segments of society to drive substantive reforms for a more advanced and prosperous Malaysia.
16. In Malaysia, we have made significant strides in advancing women's rights and gender equality. We have implemented policies to increase women's participation in the workforce, enhance access to education and healthcare, and protect women from violence and discrimination.
17. When women are empowered, they not only transform their own lives but also the lives of those around them, creating ripple effects that benefit entire communities and nations.

Ladies & Gentleman,

18. In the light of our shared values and the teachings of Islam, we are reminded of the Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) emphasis on the rights and dignity of women. He said, "The most complete of the believers in faith are the best of them in morals, and the best among them are those who are best to their wives." This prophetic wisdom underscores the importance of respect, equality, and empowerment within our societies.

19. I would also like to highlight that Islam emphasize the importance of knowledge. The holy Quran does not distinguish between men and women in terms of the opportunity to seek knowledge. In fact, the first word revealed to the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was "Iqra" (which means Read), emphasizing the importance of education for both genders.
20. It is imperative that we need to open access to quality education and skills development for Muslim women and ensure they have equal access to education from an early age. Encouraging them to pursue higher education, and promoting lifelong learning opportunities will equip them with the knowledge and skills needed to excel in various fields.
21. By addressing these areas and implementing comprehensive strategies, I believe Malaysia and other Muslim nations can create an environment where Muslim women have the opportunities and support needed to break barriers, realize their potential, and contribute significantly to the nation's progress and development.
22. Together, we can uplift, support, and empower women, not only within our own societies but across the diverse tapestry of the Islamic world.

Ladies & Gentleman,

23. As we will engage in thoughtful discussions, share experiences, and forge connections during the upcoming summit in the month of June this year, I urge each of you to seize this opportunity to amplify the voices of women, to champion their causes, and to work collectively towards a future where every woman can thrive and make her mark on the world.
24. I encourage all young ladies, especially in the Islamic countries, to follow the example of the celebrated woman leaders in shaping their personalities and directing their efforts towards achieving success for themselves and the communities they belong to.
25. I am proud to be part of this event and offer my full support to the initiatives taken by the organizers to host this summit. The efforts to empower women and promote their achievements are commendable, and I am confident that The Muslim World Women's Summit 2024 will be a resounding success.
26. Once again, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all the esteemed recipients of the Muslim World Rania Award, honoured last week.

27. I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to all our distinguished guests from Malaysia and around the world for gracing us with your presence this evening. Your participation has truly enriched our event, and your support is deeply appreciated.
28. I seek all the ministry, agencies and everyone to give full support to this association in order for them to accomplish their objective and vision towards achieving the goals.
29. As I conclude my speech, In the name of ALLAH (Bismillahir Rahmanir Raheem), I officiate the soft launch of the Muslim World Women's Summit 2024.
30. Thank you once again for this incredible opportunity, and may our collective efforts lead us towards a brighter, more inclusive, and harmonious world for all.

May peace be upon you all.

Wabillahi Taufiq Wal Hidayah,

Aassalamu Alaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.