

**SPEECH BY**  
**YB MINISTER OF TRANSPORT MALAYSIA**  
**MALAYSIA WORLD MARITIME WEEK 2017 CELEBRATION**  
**5 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Distinguished guest, Members of the media

Ladies and gentleman.

1. A very good morning to everyone.

2. It is my great pleasure to be part of this very auspicious annual event. I am glad to see so many familiar faces here, the shipping and logistics industry key players.

3. I am happy to note that there are more than 500 participants and guest attending this memorable event today. I strongly believe World Maritime Day is essential as a platform for networking and sharing experiences to shape the future of global maritime.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

4. As a Member State and Council Member of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), Malaysia has been organising this annual conference since it was first introduced in 1978, marking the 20th anniversary of the IMO Convention.

5. The focus of this event has always been the importance of ship safety, maritime security and protection of the marine environment as well as to update industry players on latest developments in the IMO.

6. I am proud to note that we have been able to elevate this event into one of the most anticipated events in our calendar and this has been made possible through continuous support and commitment from our industry players and its related sectors.

7. I am also glad to note that, apart from our local participants and speakers, we are joined by our friends from other parts of the world here today in this celebration. We deeply appreciate your presence here today.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

8. Shipping and ports can play a significant role in helping to create conditions for increased employment, prosperity and stability through promoting maritime trade. The port and maritime sectors can be wealth creators, both on land and through developing a sustainable blue economy at sea.

9. Therefore, themed Connecting Ships, Ports and People, this year's World Maritime Day is timely and apt to highlight these potentials. In addition, the WMD this year also aims to address a wide range of issues including amongst others;

facilitating maritime transport, increasing shipping efficiency, navigational safety, maritime security and protection of the marine environment.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

10. Ports and shipping activities in Malaysia have shown a steady growth and tremendous performance over the recent years. This underlines the value and significance of the maritime sector to our economic developments. Ports and shipping activities is a requisite in facilitating Malaysia's trade, thus crucial to its economic prosperity, making Malaysia a leading maritime nation.

11. In this regard, the Government is fully committed in promoting and spurring shipping activities in Malaysia. This includes promotion, investment, regulatory and a range of many other initiatives designed to boost shipping activities in Malaysia and thus enhance the nation's maritime competency.

12. The phenomenal growth in global trade also had huge impact in the development of ports and shipping industry in Malaysia. The rapid industrialization of Malaysia's economy over the last few decades has made it into one of the world's major trading nations.

13. Today, I am very pleased with Malaysian ports, which are equipped with world-class facilities and well connected with other modes of transportation, making movement of goods seamless and efficient.

14. In this regard, Malaysia is currently embarking on further development of the port sector of the country. This includes amongst others:

- The proposed development of the 3rd terminal of Port Klang in Carey Island;
- The development of the new Malacca Gateway Port in Malacca;
- The re-development of the Sepanggar Port in Kota Kinabalu; and
- The development of the new Mega Port in Kuantan.

15. These are to ensure Malaysia continues to be the shipping hub for the region, thus promote further growth of the shipping industry as well as support and ancillary services of the country.

16. And it gives me great pleasure to inform that two of our ports are in the top 20 container ports in the world – with our Port Klang is currently ranked 11th in the World Container League ranking after recording growth of 10.8% in Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) operated in 2016 while Pelabuhan Tanjung Pelepas in Johor also ranked number 17.

17. While facilities and infrastructure plays significant role in boosting the performance of our ports and shipping sector, we must realise that human capital is a very key element to achieve our vision of placing our ports in the international league.

18. Thus, continuous human capital development is vital in sustaining the successes that we are currently experiencing by providing quality training for maritime personnel.

19. This can be materialised by offering courses for professional maritime qualifications, along with programs in ancillary safety and maritime management.

20. I wish to note that the Government is fully supportive of initiatives undertaken by our industry in producing a competent and highly qualified maritime personnel.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

21. Recent global economic uncertainties are weighing in on the shipping industry and the development of the global port sector. Although this may pose risks to many economies but I believe that we are also presented with many opportunities.

22. In order to accommodate the industry needs on the onset of these uncertainties, it is crucial to have constant engagement with our stakeholders through dialogues and in depth discussion.

23. It is therefore important for government and authority to work closely with the industry to spur the growth of our nation. Through this mechanism, we will be able to identify issues and problems and create solutions.

24. This is crucial to ensure our shipping industry continue to prosper and issues such as competitive disparities, capabilities of Malaysian shipowners, maritime human resources and maritime services can be resolved accordingly.

25. It is with that in mind, the Malaysia Shipping Master Plan (MSMP) was formulated to revitalize the shipping industry and maritime sector in Malaysia via structured strategies from holistic perspectives for a strong, dynamic and sustainable industry focusing on its five strategic pillars;

- i. promote employment of Malaysian ships;
- ii. promote employment of Malaysian seafarers;
- iii. facilitate access to capital and financing;
- iv. enhance Malaysia's attractiveness to shipping businesses; and
- v. promote innovation & sustainable growth of maritime ancillary services.

26. It is my fervent hope that the MSMP will be able to revitalise the shipping industry and maritime sector thus, ensuring a dynamic and sustainable industry.

27. In this regard, I am also happy that I was given the privilege to share the details of the MSMP with all of you today in my TN50 session right after this. I hope to receive your aspirations and way forward on how and what our maritime industry would be like by the year 2050.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

28. Besides the Malaysia Shipping Master Plan, in realising the aspiration to be the logistics hub in the region, my ministry of transport is leading the National Logistics Task Force comprising various key ministries and agencies to boost the logistics sector in the country.

29. I am happy to note that we are very well on track to achieve our goals and objectives as laid out in the Logistics and Trade Facilitation Master Plan. Many

initiatives have been planned and executed to ensure this aspiration can be realised in 2020.

30. As maritime transport is critical in the logistics sector, therefore, it is my wish that what we do here today will be yet another milestone in our journey to ensure Malaysia emerge as the leading nation in logistics segment in this region and hopefully in the global arena.

31. With the rapid growth in our ports and other maritime related services as well as the other mode of logistics from land to air freight, I am confident that we will be able to see success in due course.

Ladies and gentleman

32. Maritime transport is the backbone of international trade and global markets over thousands of years ago. Shipping today carries more than 90 percent of global trade across the globe as it provides a dependable, low cost means of transporting goods globally, facilitating commerce and help create wealth among nations and people.

33. The efficient interactions between ports and ships helps maintain and enhance a safe, secure, and efficient maritime transportation system, recognising that modern ports and shipping activities play a crucial role to preserve and attract industries and logistics.

34. During this three days Conference, I have full confidence that you will benefit from the many prominent speakers who will delve on the topics of ports and shipping as well as its interface as a free and efficient flow of goods and trade extend far beyond the ships and ports themselves.

35. This year's IMO's theme reminds us that sustainable shipping and ports activities can improve the well-being of our economy and ultimately the people.

36. From the human capital aspect, we note that there is a need for greater efforts to bring new generations into considering a career in maritime industry as well as its related services.

37. The success of the maritime industry depends on an adequate supply of highly qualified maritime personnel. To make this happen, the industry must be seen appealing to new generations as a rewarding and fulfilling career.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

38. I am indeed happy with all the arrangements planned for the Conference as it is aligned with the World Maritime Day's theme. I am particularly glad that all sectors of the maritime industry in Malaysia are well represented.

39. Moreover, the presence of the Second Minister of International Trade and Industries as well as the Deputy Minister of Transport to the various segments during the WMD will surely provide a fruitful and fascinating insight of the maritime industry.

40. A long list of programmes has been planned by the organising committee, which includes engaging with youth through interactive programmes as well as giving assistance and sponsorships for their participation.

41. Their participation is made possible through the support of our local industry players with hope to see younger generations will take interest to explore the various opportunities within the maritime industry, be it on professional career or business opportunities.

42. I was informed that, apart from the conference, there are many exciting activities that has been lined up in conjunction with this year's WMD. Among others is the Cape Rachado Bicycle Challenge and the Maritime Run which is scheduled to take place this weekend and in December respectively.

43. The organising committee also informed me that beginning this year, the World Maritime Day will be known as Malaysia World Maritime Week. Therefore, it is my fervent hope that the organising committee will be able to elevate this celebration into a grandeur level and perhaps one day we will be given the honour to host the World Maritime Day Parallel Event here in Kuala Lumpur.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

44. Apart from the World Maritime Week celebration, I am happy to note that there is also a parallel event taking place here in KLCC which is the Breakbulk Southeast Asia Conference 2017. This 3-day event gathers all the players involved in this specialised industry, from cargo owners to ocean carriers, freight forwarders, ports and terminal operators, heavy haulers and equipment companies.

45. During this Breakbulk Southeast Asia Conference, the Malaysia China Port Alliance will also hold their annual summit. On that note, I am pleased to welcome the strong delegations from China ports to this annual summit.

46. It is my sincere hope that this summit will be a platform for Malaysian and China ports to deliberate and explore strategic opportunities for the benefit of both parties.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

47. I wish to take this opportunity to extend on behalf of my ministry and the Malaysian maritime industry our heartfelt condolences to the family members of Mr. Faizul Ismail, former Chairman of Malaysia Shipowners Association (MASA) and Vice President of MISC Bhd whose passing is a shocking loss to Malaysia's maritime industry.

48. Let us all pray that his soul will rest in peace and that his family be given the strength to go through these trying times. Mr. Faizul Ismail, was truly a champion of the maritime fraternity, from his humble beginning in the LNG Fleet, up to his days as the Managing director and CEO of Petronas Maritime Services Sdn Bhd (PMSSB) and becoming the Chairman of MASA, among other glorious achievements.

49. He will be dearly missed, and forever in our hearts and minds. Our thought and prayers will always be with his family and loved ones.

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentleman

50. Before I conclude my speech, it gives me great pleasure to announce that the Government of Malaysia has decided to submit its candidacy to the IMO Council

seat under Category C for the 2018-2019 biennium during the General Assembly of IMO in November 2017.

51. Malaysia is keen and determined to continue playing an active part in achieving IMO's aspirations for safer seas and excellent standards of maritime ecosystem. I am confident that we can contribute even more by serving in the IMO Council.

52. Once again, I would like to thank all stakeholders in ensuring the success of this year's World Maritime Week celebrations. To our foreign guests, please take some time off to savour the sights and sounds of Kuala Lumpur while you are here.

53. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is with great pleasure that I hereby officiate the Malaysia World Maritime Week 2017 celebrations and the Breakbulk Southeast Asia Conference as its parallel event.

Thank you.