



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **MINERAL AND GEOSCIENCE DEPARTMENT MINISTRY OF WATER, LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

#### **INCONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ON MINERAL AND MINERAL-BASED PRODUCTS DEVELOPMENT 2018 THEME VALUE CREATION FROM MINERAL ENDOWMENT' BERJAYA TIMES SQUARE, KUALA LUMPUR.**

**29 NOVEMBER 2018**

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1. YB. Dr. Xavier Jayakumar, the Minister of Water, Land and Natural Resources (KATS) delivered his officiating speech during the opening ceremony of **“The National Conference and Exhibition on Mineral and Mineral Based Product Development 2018** at Berjaya Times Square, Kuala Lumpur today.
2. The conference is organised by Mineral and Geoscience Department, Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources in a collaboration with The Malaysian Chamber of Mines (MCOM).
3. The conference with theme ***Value Creation From Mineral Endowment*** aims to bring together representatives from various stakeholders in the mineral related industry from Government institutions, private sectors, academicians, business entities and associations. from wide range of disciplines working on mineral and mineral based product development 2018

4. Mining industry are important to countries endowed with mineral resources, in particular developing countries such as ours. It provides the opportunity to catalyse broad-based economic development which leads to improving livelihood and sustainability when managed effectively and properly.

5. Mining sector contributes significant and substantial direct benefits from its operation including state revenues and improvement on socio-economic development. It also provides source of raw materials for energy, construction and manufacturing industry that contributes significantly to the growth and development of our economy.

6. Ministry of Water, Land and Natural Resources is committed to the challenges ahead and is working seriously towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015 by promoting sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, creating opportunities, reducing inequalities, raising basic standards of living and fostering equitable social progress through best practices of natural resources management and mineral development in particular. The key to sustainable development is how we develop, utilise and manage our resources wisely and rationally to achieve optimum economic and social benefits for our country and our people without compromising on the environment or the needs of the future generations.

7. Sustainability is the framework for the development of new opportunities for increased economic efficiency, for employment, for improved environmental management and for a better quality of life. Sustainability is a local as well as global process that unites our economic, social and environmental goals.

8. The challenge of sustainability is to find new approaches of economic development that restore and protect the environment and the fabric of our society. It is about sustaining our natural and social capital for future generations and distributing the wealth we generate from these resources more equitably. Malaysia is fortunate to be endowed with mineral resources such as tin, gold, iron ore, copper as well as coal. In 2017, there were 145 mines and 399 quarries operating all over the country. The total value of mineral produced was RM6.932 billion, comprising RM1.627 billion for metallic minerals, RM4.899 billion for industrial minerals and RM0.405 billion for coal.

9. In terms of major mineral trade, Malaysia export value amounted to RM6.802 billion but import value was very much higher, at RM19.221 billion. For mineral-based products, the trend is similar, with imports significantly higher than export. Import value stood at RM59.957 billion while total export amounted to RM40.191 billion.

10. From the Department's survey under the Airborne Geophysical Survey Project, conducted from 2016 to 2017 covering a total area of 27,921 square kilometre, they have identified a total of 105 highly potential mineralised areas for metallic minerals such as gold, tin and iron ore in the East Coast Economic Region (ECER). Obviously there will be challenges to develop these green fields, in term of its location, various legislations and the prevailing economics.