



PARLIMEN MALAYSIA

MEDIA STATEMENT OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

PRESIDENT OF SENATE DELIVERS SPEECH ON ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ROLE OF PARLIAMENT AT THE 27TH CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF COMMONWEALTH, KAMPALA UGANDA

4 January 2024, Kampala, Uganda – YB Senator Tan Sri Dato Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar, President of Senate delivered a speech on Environment, Climate Change and the Role of Parliament at the 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of Commonwealth currently being held at Kampala, Uganda earlier tonight at 8.30pm (Malaysia time).

2. In his speech, YB Senator Tan Sri Dato Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar stressed the importance of acknowledging the current serious state of the climate change and its impact to the environment worldwide. Key points from his speech are as follows:

- i. Malaysia's commitment in the Montreal Protocol and Paris Agreement 2015 through several initiatives such as Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap and maintaining forest cover as pledged in the Earth Summit in Rio, 1992.
- ii. Malaysia's ongoing initiatives in UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) through its SDG Roadmap.
- iii. Sarawak's role in contributing to Malaysia's objectives in this cause through initiatives such as Hydrogen Economy Roadmap, Hydrogen Energy Transition Roadmap and other initiatives to develop renewable energy.
- iv. Parliament's role in passing environmental related Bills to support Malaysia's government efforts.
- v. Parliament's action to install photovoltaic (PV) systems to harness energy from the sun to generate power for all parliamentary buildings use and comprehensive Green Initiative such as installation of electric vehicle (EV) charges and the replacement of existing lighting with energy-efficient LED technology.
- vi. Establishment of All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPM-SDG) as part of Parliament's effort through Constituency Engagement, Education and Capacity Building, Networking and Collaboration and Private Sector Engagement.

Full speech text is appended for reference.

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

4th January 2024

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**27th CONFERENCE OF SPEAKERS AND PRESIDING OFFICERS OF THE
COMMONWEALTH (CSPOC)
TOPIC 1:**

Environment, Climate Change, and the role of Parliament

3rd to 6th January 2024 - Kampala, Uganda

Speech by:

**His Excellency Senator Tan Sri Dato Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi bin Tuanku Jaafar
The President of the Senate, Parliament of Malaysia**

Rt. Hon. Anita Annet Among

Honourable Madam

Chairperson,

Excellencies

Presidents of the Senates

Speakers of People Representatives

the Commonwealth Parliaments,

Clerk and Secretary of the Houses,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Allow me to extend my profound gratitude to the Parliament of Uganda and the Government of Uganda as the host country for the 27th Conference of Speakers and Presiding Officers of the Commonwealth (CSPOC) for the warm welcome and great hospitality accorded to our Delegation. I would also like to express my appreciation to CSPOC Secretariat for this opportunity to speak on the issue of ***Environment, Climate Change, and the role of Parliament*** from the Parliament of Malaysia perspective.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The unprecedented pace of Agricultural Revolution and concurrently with the Industrialization and both had been applauded as the great successes in human history. But the reckless clearing of land for agriculture resulting in deforestation and over exploitation of natural resources to support the extravagance life styles in the European and the Western countries have led to the severe environmental degradation we saw today. The hundreds of years of callous misdeed and irresponsible attitude these countries, have now become rich and developed countries, had caused deforestation and lost biodiversity and degradation of environment. The industrial revolution uncontrolled and excessive used of toxic substances for both agriculture and industries have caused both environmental degradation and the depletion of the ozone layer. The planet earth suffered from lacked of natural protection and humanity is at risk from extreme weather events; which we called the Climate Change today.

The extreme greed, extravagance, abused of nature's abundance and exploitation during the period in the Industrial revolutionized Europe and the West had become a systematic destruction of natural environment and unabated discharges of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere for centuries and today **become humanity's greatest challenges for survival.**

The climate scientists and sciences began to examine in earnest, and subsequently detected in the 1980s the depletion of ozone layer in the Eastern Hemisphere the size of 28.3 million square kilometers and if it was allowed to continue without intervention the depletion ozone layer would have expanded beyond repair. The earth would not have the protection against ultra-violet ray from the sun that **cause severe harm to human, animals, plants and biodiversity.** That was a wake-up call for the United Nations to initiate action!

Then in 1987 the United Nations under the auspice of the Montreal Protocol in 1987 agreed to call all member nations to reduce the use and consumption of **the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)**. By the collective international efforts of the international community, **notwithstanding whether were the party to the destruction during the agriculture and industrial revolution or not**, reduced **the production and use** of hundreds of the destructive **the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)**. Since the Montreal Protocol hundreds of varieties of **the Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)** were made illegal from production and use in various industries across the globe. By 2016 a noticeable recovery was seen in the ozone layer. Thus, the Montreal Protocol in 1987 was hailed as one of the most successful multi-lateral agreements of all time. The success of the Montreal Protocol is often cited as an example of effective international cooperation and intervention to address not only environmental but global challenges.

Since Montreal Protocol 1987 the world had become more aware of the human activities, rapid development, high consumption, the discharges of carbon dioxide, the reduction of carbon sink, reduced capacity of carbon sequestration as a result of deforestation and growing agriculture activities to feed the world's billions population and human extravagance consumption. The world could no longer denied that human activities have impacted of the planet and caused harm to human, plant, animal and including the marine lives. Climate Scientists further discovered that if nothing effective is done and by **2100**:

- global temperature would rise by **3.3 to 5.7°C** and heatwaves will be **39 times more frequent**,
- The global warming will result in **50%** of glaciers to melt and sea levels would rise by **2 feet up to 3 feet**;
- . **18%** of the low-laying areas all over the globe are going to be inundated by water;
- . The warm sea and ocean cause the coral to bleach and 90% of marine life on will be at risk of extinction.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Climate Change is real and the changing weather pattern is real. Again, the United Nations came with another initiative **the United Nations Frame Work for Climate Change (UNFCC)**. After a long and tedious negotiations process, then 196-member-countries of the United Nations under auspice of UNFCC on the 12 December, 2015 endorsed the Paris Agreement in 2015. By 12 April, 2016 every nation signatory to it had ratified the the Paris Agreement in 2015; which signalled the importance and the urgency for the world to address the Climate Change and to save the humanity from utter chaos and destruction. One of the major and primary aims the Paris Agreement in 2015 was to reduce the global average temperature **by 2.0 degrees C or at least 1.5°C as compare to 2005**.

Malaysia is committed to both the Montreal Protocol and the Paris Agreement 2015. Under the Montreal Protocol Malaysia have eliminated hundreds of the **Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)** from being imported and used in agriculture, heavy, electrical and electronic industries. The very basic requirements of Malaysia's development in the 1980s through to the end of 1990s. However, it was our commitment to achieving Net-zero Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2050 aligns with its role in the Paris Agreement 2015. Two most important sectors, are the energy sector and forest management sector which play integral role in the achievement of this aspiration. The National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) was drawn and it demonstrates our unwavering

determination in this regard and reducing Malaysia's carbon footprint is one of the catalysts to transforming the economy on a more sustainable path.

The National Energy Transition Roadmap (NETR) establishes the pathway for national energy mix, reduction of Green House Gases (GHG) and energy transition initiatives. We expect to reduce 32% Green House Gases (GHG) emissions from the energy sector compared to the 2019 baseline. This initiatives expected to attract more than RM25 billion investment and create 23,000 job opportunities. The Responsible Transition (RT) Pathway 2050 has also shown promising decarbonisation results as evidenced **by the phasing out of coal fired energy and the reduction the use of fossil-fuel from 96% in 2023 to 77% in 2050.**

As we pledged in the Earth Summit in Rio 1992, Malaysia has continued to maintain its forest cover at 54.8% despite the rapid urbanization. And Malaysia is still recognized as one of the world's 17 mega-biodiversity countries. Consistent with these objectives, in 2022, Parliament of Malaysia had passed the amendment of the National Forestry Act to include public consultation prior to any forest clearing and replanting of degraded forest areas across the nation. These efforts are to combat deforestation and the loss of biodiversity.

In similar context, Parliament of Malaysia had also passed **the Access to Biological Resources and Benefit Sharing law 2017** as part of its commitment to conserve forest and its biodiversity, promote its sustainable use, and ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilisation of biodiversity resources. This resulted in the update of its National Biodiversity Policy and incorporate the latest Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Within the National Energy Transition Roadmap, the State of Sarawak in Borneo is playing a major role in achieving the National Objectives with its New Economy Objectives; among them are the Hydrogen Economy Roadmap focuses on utilizing hydrogen to transform Sarawak into a developed State by 2030. The forthcoming Hydrogen Energy Transition Roadmap (HETR) will further augment Malaysia's hydrogen ambitions, exploring renewable energy with the industrial commercialization of hydrogen and methanol. Sarawak has established two hydrogen production plants and has a plan for the net-work refuelling stations all over the country. These two plants are expected to export hydrogen by 2027.

Sarawak also had started the production of green ammonia, green methanol, and green hydrogen with a target of extensive commercial purposes. Malaysia itself has changed its energy policy has

currently generated much international interest to develop renewable energy (RE) growth in Malaysia, following the Sarawak foot-step into hydro-energy and Hydrogen Hub. **This parallel effort could well propel not only Sarawak, but the whole nation to become a regional green renewable hub in Asia.**

To actualize its contribution to the National Energy Transition Roadmap, Sarawak is actively researching and developing its first industrial micro-algae production for sustainable aviation fuels, animal feeds and pharmaceutical products. Sarawak is also actively creating the framework for its carbon capturing, carbon storage and carbon trading initiatives. This effort is not only consistent with the state of Sarawak and current Malaysia national policies, but will benefit Malaysian participants in algae farming and forest conservation.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Parliament is facilitating and enhancing the government functions in legislation and policy advocacy, ensuring alignment with the principles and objectives of our respective national environmental conservation efforts. This entails supporting laws that promote renewable energy, sustainable development practices, and climate resilience.

In addition to the aforementioned laws, the Malaysian Parliament has enacted several environment-related laws to bolster the government's endeavours in realizing its goals for renewable energy, environmental conservation, and sustainability. These laws include:

- National Water Service Commission (Amended) 2023
- Sustainable Energy Development Authority (Amendment) Bill 2023
- Renewable Energy (Amendment) Bill 2023
- Wildlife Conservation Bill (Amendment) Bill 2021
- Forest Research Institute Malaysia Bill 2016
- Environment Quality (Amendment) Bill 2012
- Both Houses of Parliament Malaysia have established Select Committees to monitor and oversee government environmental initiatives.

Apart from monitoring and facilitating the executive functions, the Parliament of Malaysia is also actively bolstering the national effort in addressing Climate Change. We have recently approved the installation of solar **photovoltaic** (PV) systems to harness energy from the sun to generate power for all our parliamentary buildings use. This initiative is to showcase our commitment to sustainable and renewable energy utilization. The latest bi-facial **Photovoltaic** solar panels are also incorporated as part of the landscape without affecting the aesthetic appeal of our Parliament buildings. The installation of this project expected to be completed and be commissioned by mid-

2024. We anticipate a total estimated energy generation of 1.9 GWh per year and will result in estimated substantial savings of electricity bill of MR693,000 annually.

Besides the **Photovoltaic** solar panels installations, starting early 2024, Parliament of Malaysia is also embarking on a comprehensive Green Initiative which includes the installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargers and the replacement of existing lighting with energy-efficient LED technology.

In addition, we want to create an environmentally conscious building by incorporating rain water harvesting systems, to enable us to collect and utilize rainwater for various purposes within the premises. Overall, we also want use specialized glass technology to regulate heat and minimize solar heat gain, and thus enhancing energy efficiency within the buildings.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In September 2015, the United Nations (UN) has initiated **the Sustainable Development Goals, (SDGs)** which set of 17 global goals that were adopted by all UN member states as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The 2030 Agenda and the SDGs represent a global commitment to achieving a more sustainable and equitable world by the year 2030.

The goals of Sustainable Development Goals 2015 (SDGs) and Paris Agreement 2015 are two separate international treaties, but both treaties are sharing a common overarching goal to promote global sustainability and addressing environmental challenges of complex proportion facing humanity, promoting prosperity while safeguarding the planet. The universal call to end poverty and to protect the planet at the same time for the present and the future generations.

Malaysia's is committed to achieving the commitments made in the Paris Agreement as well as to materialize the objectives of UN SDGs.

The recent shift in Malaysia's policy to allow export of commercial renewable energy is poised to generate economic benefits. By reinvesting the income from this initiative into national development, it aims to counteract the impacts of climate change and enhance the quality of life for its people.

Malaysia is entering Phase 2 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Road Map which coincides with its Twelfth Malaysia Plan 2021-2025. The SDGs related to environment and climate change are placed under the responsibility of Ministry of Energy Transition and Public Utilities and Ministry of Natural Resources and Sustainability. Phase 1 of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) related to environment and climate change had achieved an increased in recycling rate from 28.1% in 2018 to 33.2% in 2022 and increased protected areas related to marine from 3.2% in 2018 to 5.4% in 2021.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Parliamentarians play a crucial role in advancing and supporting the implementation of **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the Paris Agreement on climate change, we hold a pivotal role in shaping policies that can either exacerbate or mitigate the impacts of climate change.

Parliamentarians must also hold the government accountable for its commitments to **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the Paris Agreement through parliamentary oversight and monitor the implementation of policies and initiatives and ensure that progress is regularly reported.

In this context, Parliament of Malaysia, had established the All-Party Parliamentary Group Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals (APPGM-SDG). APPGM is Parliament of Malaysia's effort in through Constituency Engagement, Education and Capacity Building, Networking and Collaboration and Private Sector Engagement.

Through the APPGM-SDG, we were able to engage with the relevant parties and address the concerns at its very grassroots, especially in districts and localities. This is in line with the principle of *'leaving no one behind'*, a key tenet of **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. By recognizing the diverse needs, circumstances, and vulnerabilities of different groups of the community, it emphasizes the importance of inclusivity and equality in the pursuit of **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Moreover, agencies and communities need to understand that sustainability and development are interconnected with the five **Ps**, namely ***People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace, and Partnership***.

In localizing the **the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** several projects were carried out in 57 parliamentary constituencies from 2020 to 2022 all over Malaysia, addressing the concerns of vulnerable groups in Malaysia consist of Indigenous communities, farmers, small scale fishery workers, Bottom 40 (B40) residents, single parents, and older persons in Malaysian society. One of the outcomes was the specific locality issues in seven parliamentary constituencies across Sabah, Sarawak, Perak, Kelantan, Kedah, Selangor, and Kuala Lumpur. Such engagement contributed to a better understanding and discussion among Members of Parliaments about economic, social, and environmental issues, especially for the development in their respective constituencies.

Global efforts to address climate change require Parliamentarians to collaborate with experts, scientists, civil society, and international organizations. This collaboration is essential for crafting impactful, evidence-based policies that target the root causes of environmental degradation and climate change.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Parliament of Malaysia is proud to lead by example in embracing sustainable practices and renewable energy sources. Our installation of solar PV systems, along with the implementation of EV chargers and LED lighting, demonstrates our commitment to reducing carbon emissions, conserving energy, and promoting environmental stewardship. We believe that through such initiatives, we can inspire other nations and contribute to a global movement towards a sustainable future.

All parliaments strive for common goals of promoting sustainable development, human rights, and good governance. By working closely together through parliamentary networks and partnerships, we can achieve these objectives, share best practices, and collaborate on common challenges.

Together, let us continue to champion sustainable practices and work towards a brighter and greener future for generations to come.

Thank you.

Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar

President of the Senate Malaysia

4th January 2024