SPEECH BY

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FOR THE

LAUNCHING OF THE ENERGY TRANSITION & SUSTAINABILITY ACADEMY (ETSA)

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KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE

Good morning and Salam Malaysia Madani.

SALUTATION (PLEASE CHECK AGAINST VIP ATTENDANCE)

Opening & Acknowledgements

1. First I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the leadership of Tenaga Nasional Berhad, the team at TNB ILSAS, our distinguished partners from industry, academia, government agencies, and technology providers, and to everyone present today at The Energy Transition Conference 2026 (Etcon26).

2. Today, we do not simply launch an academy. We plant a stake in the ground and declare, clearly and confidently, that Malaysia's energy transition will be powered not only by infrastructure and policy, but by something equally vital: the capability of our people.

   Ladies and gentlemen,

3. We find ourselves in the midst of the most profound energy transformation in modern history. The global shift away from fossil fuels has moved beyond the realm of debate and has become a matter of strategic urgency. Nations that position themselves early by building the right systems and the right talent will lead the global economy.

4. Those that hesitate will find themselves merely managing the consequences of decisions made by others. At this moment, we

confront a threefold global emergency: climate instability, the rapid decline of biodiversity, and widespread pollution.

5. These are not abstract threats. In recent years, Malaysia has endured devastating floods, the erosion of our coastlines, and intense heatwaves where temperatures climbed to 37.5 degrees Celsius, directly endangering our water and food supplies. Because we are among the elite group of 17 megadiverse nations that shelter the vast majority of global biodiversity, our duty to act transcends domestic interest; it is an international responsibility to protect and defend our planet.

6. Malaysia has chosen the path of leadership. Our National Energy Transition Roadmap sets an ambitious course by expanding renewable energy capacity, decarbonising our grid, and embedding sustainability into the core of our national operation. This ambition is supported by significant recent milestones, including the approval of the National Climate Change Policy 2.0 and our updated Nationally Determined Contribution, which aims for our emissions to peak by the early 2030s.

7. We have committed to an absolute emissions reduction and a goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. Furthermore, we have launched the National Carbon Market Policy to spur investment in low-carbon solutions and are finalizing the Malaysia Climate Change Bill, or RUUPIN, to enshrine these commitments into law with full accountability. As the backbone of our energy infrastructure, TNB sits at the heart of this entire transformation.

8. But here is a truth that we must speak plainly: technology alone does not deliver a transition. Policies alone do not deliver a transition. Finance alone does not deliver a transition.

9. What delivers a transition is PEOPLE. Capable, informed, and prepared people at every level of the system. And that is precisely where Malaysia has faced a gap. The complexity of energy transition — spanning renewable technologies, battery storage, hydrogen, carbon markets, climate risk, ESG frameworks, and sustainable finance — requires a level of cross-disciplinary capability that our workforce, our institutions, and our industry partners have not yet fully developed.

10. Recognising this, one of the key pillars of ETCon26 is “ET for People”, which emphasises the importance of ensuring that the energy transition remains inclusive, sustainable, and future-ready — supporting a just transition, smart communities, climate resilience, workforce development, and green financing. It is this very reason that the Energy Transition & Sustainability Academy (ETSA) was established.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Vision & What ETSA Represents

11. ETSA is not a conventional training programme. It is a capability architecture — scalable, modular, and designed to be future-ready. It is built on seven core capability pillars:

- Energy Transition,

- Climate Risk and Resilience,
- Driving ESG Performance,
- Carbon and GHG Management,
- Sustainable Finance,
- People, Communities and Just Transition, and
- Sustainable Supply Chain and Market Enablement.

12. These pillars are not chosen arbitrarily. They map directly to the demands that our industries, our regulators, and our international commitments are placing on Malaysian organisations today.

13. And these pillars are supported by six enabling systems — from Governance and Assurance, to Data, Digital and AI Enablement, to Assessment and Credentialing — ensuring that what ETSA delivers is not merely training, but verifiable, transferable, and lasting capability.

Partnerships & Call to Collaborate

14. What makes ETSA genuinely powerful is not any single programme. It is the ecosystem that surrounds it.

15. Today, we will witness two important Memoranda of Understanding that embody ETSA's vision of cross-sector collaboration. The first, between TNB ILSAS and the Malaysia Green Technology and Climate Change Corporation (MGTC) which anchors ETSA's

programmes within Malaysia's National Energy Transition Roadmap and National Carbon Market Policy,

16. This aligns perfectly with our National Carbon Market Policy, positioning Malaysia as a credible participant in international carbon trading backed by data, integrity, and trust.

17. By combining MGTC's policy-linked ecosystem with ETSA's practitioner-led platform to build structured capabilities in carbon markets, green technologies, and climate risk, this partnership will directly address critical national capability gaps and strengthen Malaysia's green talent pipeline.

18. The second MOU, between TNB ILSAS and the Asian Institute of Chartered Bankers (AICB), will provide a strategic intervention to bring our financial sector into the heart of the energy transition. Through the new Certified Renewable Energy Professional programme and co-developed courses in sustainable finance and climate risk, we will equip banking professionals to assess project bankability, understand transition asset financing, and make more informed, confident investment decisions. Because Malaysia cannot finance its energy transition without a banking sector that truly understands what it is financing.

19. ETSA also works in close partnership with industry players, technology providers, academic institutions, and government agencies, because the ministry I lead understands deeply that no single institution can build a nation's capability alone. This platform

is a shared national resource. And I call on every organisation represented in this room today to be part of it.

20. Together, we strengthen skills, accelerate innovation and enhance national readiness. These three are not separate goals. They are the same goal.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Closing

21. History does not remember the nations that had the best plans on paper; it remembers the nations that executed those plans. Execution always comes down to people. It comes down to whether your engineers understand what they are building, whether your risk managers understand what they are measuring, and whether your leaders understand the long-term impact of their decisions.

22. ETSA is Malaysia's investment in that collective understanding. It is a signal to our regional neighbours and the world that we are serious enough about our climate goals to build the talent required to achieve them.

23. As the Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Sustainability, I am immensely proud to stand with TNB ILSAS and all our partners today. Malaysia possesses the natural resources and the policy direction. With the launch of ETSA, we are now systematically building the talent to bring it all together.

24. The transition is not waiting for us to be ready, but through our actions today, we are choosing to be ready regardless. I congratulate Tenaga Nasional Berhad and the entire team for this achievement, and I thank all our partners for their trust in this vision. May this academy serve the people of Malaysia for generations to come.

Thank you