



## PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA

### LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF EXHIBITION BY THE MUSEUM OF THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN CONJUNCTION WITH 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONSHIP MALAYSIA - HUNGARY

---

Speech By  
His Excellency Tan Sri Dato' Mohamad Ariff Bin Md Yusof  
Speaker Of The House Of Representatives  
Parliament Of Malaysia

Banquet Hall  
Parliament Of Malaysia  
7 November 2019

[Salutation]

His Excellency Attila Káli  
Ambassador of Hungary

Hon. Mr Ivan Istvan Jakab  
Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary

Members of Parliament,

Media Representatives,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bismillahhirahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

1. A very good afternoon to all of you present here today. It is a pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to the Parliament of Malaysia for this event. We are indeed honoured to play host to this important exhibition.

2. Undoubtedly, over the past 50 years, Malaysia is happy with the friendly and cooperative relations with Hungary.
3. The exhibition is an excellent platform for the exchange of thought and for recommending possible broad and specific solutions to some of the pressing and challenging issues pertaining to the region.
4. While expanding existing areas of collaboration, Malaysia is confident that both countries should explore the opportunity to enhance our bilateral cooperation in other areas, including science and technology and green technology.
5. We welcome engagement in new areas of cooperation between Malaysia and Hungary and hope this matter will be further deliberated during the upcoming Bilateral Consultations, which is proposed to be held in Budapest in 2020.

Ladies and Gentleman,

6. Malaysia and Hungary established diplomatic relations in 1969.
7. This year marks the 50 Years of bilateral relations between Malaysia and Hungary. Both Hungarian Embassy in Kuala Lumpur and the Embassy of Malaysia in Budapest have planned various activities to celebrate the occasion including reception, cultural performances, exhibitions and sports day.

*Logo of the 50<sup>th</sup> Commemoration between Malaysia and Hungary*



8. If I recalled it correctly, YB Tan Sri Datuk Seri Panglima Pandikar Amin Haji Mulia, former Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat, visited Hungary on 13-17 December 2015. The visit was upon the invitation from H.E. László Kövér, Speaker of the National Assembly of Hungary, extended during their meeting at the Conference of Speakers in New York in September 2015.
9. This is what we called Second Track Diplomacy, Parliamentary Diplomacy or “Parlomacy”. As such, the idea of parliamentary diplomacy or “parlomacy” is not new.
10. The executive somehow still remain at the heart of foreign policy matters, but they are no longer the exclusive players.
11. Empirical evidence confirms that parliamentarians are aware of their new roles in world politics. As state-to-state diplomacy is not always effective or successful, “parlomacy” may be an innovative means to defuse crises and build political trust over the longer-term. Parliamentarians can intervene in areas that traditional diplomats cannot venture into.
12. Thus, we encourage more high-level visits between the two countries as this will help to develop the existing bilateral relations and establish a good working relationship between the leaders, ministers, Parliamentarians and senior officials.

13. We are pleased to note the appointment of the Honorary Consul in Penang. We believe that the appointment would contribute to the enhancement of bilateral relations, especially in the economic sectors, whereby the two-way trade between Malaysia and Hungary is amounting to USD 715.1 million in 2018. I was told, agricultural products accounted for about 15 per cent of the total trade. Malaysia can continue to serve as an excellent gateway for Hungarian products and services into the ASEAN market.
14. In the context of tourism, there are ways to further increase tourist exchanges between Malaysia and Hungary. These people-to-people contacts can form a vital instrument in developing closer bilateral ties between our countries. Therefore, through Visit Malaysia 2020, I believe it could be envisaged.
15. Hungary celebrated its National Day on 23 October 2019. I hope it is not too late to wish Happy National Day! This day commemorates the anniversary of two key events in the history of modern Hungary that both happened on this day; the 1956 uprising against the Soviet Union and the creation of the Republic of Hungary in 1989.
16. We look forward to celebrating the 50th years of bilateral relations with Hungary with significant activities and welcome the President's visit next year. As we mark the 50th anniversary in diplomatic relations, we believe both countries must continue this journey in strengthening relations between governments, people to people and exploring new areas of cooperation.

On that note, it is indeed with much pleasure that I officially launch the exhibition.

Wabillahi Taufik Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Thank You.

Nombor Siri	:	
Tarikh	:	31 Oktober 2019
Penyelidik	:	Augustine Leonard Jen
Seksyen	:	Antarabangsa dan Keselamatan