KEYNOTE SPEECH
DEPUTY MINISTER OF DEFENCE

SECURING THE QUANTUM FUTURE: TECHNOLOGY, MILITARY AND REGIONAL STABILITY

6 AUGUST 2024 (TUESDAY)

CYBER STAGE, HALL 7C
KUALA LUMPUR CONVENTION CENTRE

To be added accordingly

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh

Salam sejahtera

Salam Malaysia Madani

And a very good morning.

Salutations

Dignitaries from ……., [CyberDSA Event Team: Pls fill-in name, title, org of other VIPs]

Members of the media,

Distinguished guests, panellists, ladies and gentlemen,

1. It is a great honour to address the distinguished assembly today on a topic of great significance, the profound implications of quantum technology for global security, military strategy, and regional stability.

2. This is the third series of SIBER SIAGA since officially launched in 2022. SIBER SIAGA is part of the Malaysian Armed Forces' efforts, to enhance its cybersecurity posture, and promote greater awareness and readiness, in the face of growing cyber threats.

3. Today, we aim to improve Malaysia's cybersecurity infrastructure, encourage best practices among individuals and organizations, and strengthen national cyber resilience.

Esteemed guests, ladies and gentlemen,

4. Since its introduction, SIBER SIAGA has been a key component of Malaysia's Defence strategy, to address cyber technology's increasing frequency and sophistication. This year, as we anticipate, the market readiness of quantum technology is between 2028 to 2030, and we are fully aware of both its transformative potential as well as risks.

5. The future of quantum technology presents a **complex narrative** of a good-news and, a bad-news story. The **good news** is that, it holds, the promise to transform our economy, enhance national security, and improve the lives of people through its unique capabilities.

6. However, the **bad news** is that, the risks connected with quantum technology, could delay progress, or worse, enable nations to leverage quantum dominance, as a strategic weapon against others.

7. Among the **potential risks** is the traditional practice of the "store now, decrypt later" strategy, with the expectation of future decryption capabilities. This approach poses a serious threat, as encrypted information could be compromised once quantum decryption becomes available.

8. Quantum technology has the potential to render current encryption methods obsolete. As quantum computers become more advanced, they could break encryption algorithms, that are key to our digital security. For that reason, a quantum-resistant encryption solution is urgently needed to protect our data.

9. In this regard, the Ministry of Defence is committed, to embedding the principles and technology itself, into the fabric of governance, to ensure military sustainability and a prosperous security strategic dimension.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. Quantum technology offers transformative potential for **secure communications and surveillance**. Nevertheless, it may disrupt global security. Nations, in particular ASEAN, must develop robust strategies, resilient security frameworks, and foster international cooperation to manage shifting power dynamics.

11. Importantly, we must recognize the essential role of the **private sector** in the advancement and application of quantum technology. They are the lead in **research and development, driving innovation,** that will shape the future landscape of quantum capabilities. Collaboration between the government and private sector is crucial, to ensure that the development of quantum technologies, is aligned with national security priorities and economic growth.

Distinguish guests,

12. As we engage in discussions led by our esteemed panellists, I sense the future could start today, and hope all stakeholders; government organizations, business entities, civil society, and individuals, to actively participate in achieving a secure and sustainable future for our children. Quantum technology holds endless promise, yet the future is still unfolding.

13. To prepare for a quantum-enabled future and mitigate risks, we must take conclusive steps to build understanding, develop skills, and establish connections. We should leverage real-world quantum experiments, to cultivate a skilled quantum workforce, engage in forums and partnerships to exchange expertise and reduce industry-wide risks.

14. A diverse ecosystem of quantum technologies, human capital, and infrastructure is necessary to support the unseen future. We must coordinate actively across agencies, to ensure that investments and initiatives are complementary and adaptable to technological changes.

15. Quantum technology's impact can be as transformative as the internet, with the potential to enhance various sectors. Therefore, we must embark on this journey together, collectively shaping a future where quantum advancements will lead to various potentials for all.

16. Finally, I would like to thank the National Security Council, the National Cyber Security Agency, Cyber Security Malaysia, our esteemed ASEAN partners, and international collaborators. And my warmest congratulations to the Defence Cyber and Electromagnetic Division and CyberDSA for their visionary leadership in organizing this program.

17. May the knowledge gained, and the connections established during this program become meaningful, hoping to extend our national cyber landscape far and wide.

18. In conclusion, knowing that our united efforts today, will continue, to strengthen our nation in the face of cyber challenges.

19. Wabillahi Taufiq Wal Hidayah Wassalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh and Salam Madani. Thank you.