

OPENING / LAUNCHING REMARKS

By

YANG BERTAMBAH HORMAT

DATO SERI SETIA AWANG HAJI ALI BIN

APONG

MINISTER OF PRIMARY RESOURCES AND

TOURISM

On the occasion of

MADGrow Tech Soft Launch

Ground floor,

Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism,

Jalan Menteri Besar,

Bandar Seri Begawan,

Brunei Darussalam

Bismillaahir Rahmanir Rahim

- Yang Mulia Wan Muhammad Syazwan Mohammad Hijazi, Managing Director MADGrow Tech
- Yang Mulia, Dr Haji Abdul Manaf bin Haji Metussin, Permanent Secretary MPRT;
- Yang Mulia Awang Wardi bin Haji Mohammad Ali, Deputy Permanent Secretary (Tourism), MPRT;
- Yang Mulia Heads of Departments and Senior Officials MPRT;
- Members of the media
- Ladies and Gentlemen

Assalamualaikum

Warahmatullahi

Wabarakatuh, and a very good morning.

First of all, let me take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to energetic, progressive, innovative and entrepreneurial Wan Muhammad Syazwan Mohammad Hijazi, Managing Director MADGrow Tech for inviting me as the Guest of Honour at this occasion of the soft launching of MADGrow Tech, with the introduction of FarmBot Farming Technology and Indoor Greenhouse Demonstration Farm. I am very pleased to introduce what they have been working on here at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, since they moved in, last April this year.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Everyday in the news, you can see and read the emergence of the different kinds of innovative

agricultural technologies around the world. This increasing trend in developed and developing countries, alike, only proves that we should also take an early jump on this as well. This is also in-line with our Ministry's aspiration to introduce modern technology in order to increase productivity and growth of agricultural sector.

The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, in collaboration with MADGrow Tech, an Agricultural technology start up, has embark on a path towards upgrading the lifestyle of farming communities in Brunei Darussalam.

The introduction of the modern agricultural technology used in urban farming here today, will hopefully trigger an interest of the local farmers and new entrepreneurs to venture into farming as a viable and self dependent job prospect.

MADGrow Tech has taken the initiative to introduce FarmBot, one of the kind of farming robot and at the same time experimenting with different approaches and designs in Urban Farming to cater to needs of the local farmers and the general public in the country.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The Department of Agriculture and Agrifood, Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism, believes that this project has the potential to make Brunei Darussalam to become one of the provider for Urban Farming technologies in our region.

Ultimately the goal is, to expand to mass production of high quality, and fresh organic produce, be it fruits or vegetables or livestock to improve our country's food requirements and to improve agricultural productivity through modern farming

technological application. In turn this will improve our competitiveness and export potential, and then contribute to our economic growth, which is also in-line with the Strategic Plan 2016-2020 of the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Once again, thank you to MADGrow Tech and we hope that this project will succeed beyond our expectations and we are excited to see what the future of farming technology can do for our country.

With the Kalimah – BISMILLAAHIR RAHMAANIR RAHIM and Selawat serta Salam keatas Junjungan Besar, Nabi Muhammad Salallahu 'Alaihi Wassalam, I am pleased to declare the soft launching of the MADGrow Tech, with the introduction of FarmBot Farming Technology and Indoor Greenhouse Demonstration Farm, here at the Ministry of Primary Resources and Tourism.

Wabillahi Taufik Wal Hidayah, Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Thank you.