

Opening Address by Datuk Seri Tajuddin Atan
CEO, Bursa Malaysia Berhad
for the 3rd Annual Broker Awards 2016
7.00pm - 10pm, 1 April 2016 (Friday)
Grand Ballroom, Mandarin Oriental

Yang Berhormat Datuk Johari Abdul Ghani,
Deputy Minister of Finance II

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Amirsham A Aziz
Chairman of Bursa Malaysia Berhad

Yang Mulia Tengku Dato' Paduka Noor Zakiah
Tengku Ismail, Chairman, of Kenanga Holdings
Berhad

Members of Malaysia's broking community,
Tan Sri-Tan Sri, Dato' Sri-Dato' Sri, Dato'-Dato',
Datin-Datin,
Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

1. A very good evening and welcome to Bursa Malaysia's Annual Brokers' Awards Appreciation Dinner.
2. I would like to begin this evening, by saying thank you Yang Berhormat Datuk Johari, for spending your evening with us in honouring contributions made by our broking community to the capital market - Thank you, sir.
3. Into its third year, the Brokers' Awards is our way of recognising our brokers' contributions and efforts in 2015.

Ladies and gentlemen

- Malaysia faced a slew of challenges, from a deep slide in oil and commodity prices to a falling currency.

- Foreign funds exited the emerging markets, to a tune of RM19 billion for Bursa Malaysia.
- ASIAN equity markets ended 2015 ... mostly down. ASEAN market alone dropped on average by 6.5% while Malaysia dropped by 3.9%.

... I could go on.

4. Yet, amid the unflattering headlines from politics to the economy, and the absence of wild swings - Malaysian equities remain an appealing proposition for some investors. And Malaysia has been able to outperform our peers.
5. Investors, after all are looking for sustainable growth, which means that they are willing to miss out on the highest highs, but to also avoid the biggest of crashes.

6. We are home to the world's most resilient bull market for stocks, and investors are seeking refuge from the volatility rocking markets.
7. We have seen foreign funds coming back into the market, registering inflows of RM 5.6 billion for the first quarter of the year. In fact inflows this month are the highest levels since April 2013. This comes less than a year after we witnessed the biggest outflow since the 2008 financial crisis.
8. Based on market fundamentals, high levels of corporate governance and sound sustainability practices, I think there are still gems to be found among Malaysian PLCs that could help prolong the Bull Run and bolster the market's resilience. Although 2016 will remain a challenging year, there are indicators, such as these strong inflows and a rebound in oil prices, which suggest that conditions are improving.

Ladies and Gentlemen

9. We are well aware that today, the
 - The world's largest taxi company owns no taxis (Uber)
 - The largest accommodation provider owns no real estate (Airbnb); and
 - The world's most valuable retailer has no inventory (Alibaba)

10. You can imagine how incredibly valuable a position these companies are in! Digital disruption has already happened.

11. We need to therefore continuously evolve to ensure we differentiate and future proof our products, our services and our market. It is also an occasion to take stock of where we are in relation to our objectives and to consider new areas in which we can improve.

12. And tonight, ladies and gentlemen, is an opportunity for the Exchange to recognise the efforts and achievements made in the broking industry over the past year.
13. We have improved on our awards to better reflect the industry today. This year, we broadened our awards by seven new categories - five for the Securities Market and two for the Islamic Capital Market.
14. We introduced new awards related to products such as ETFs, Structured Warrants and REITs, as well as awards for the Best Value Growth Participating Organisation (PO) and also for the PO with the most CDS accounts opened.

15. In closing:-

- Thank you for the year that was;
- All the best for the latter part of the evening; and
- Let us work together for a better 2016!

16. It is now, my pleasure, to invite Yang Berhormat, the Deputy Minister of Finance II, Datuk Johari Bin Abdul Ghani, to deliver his address.

17. Yang Berhormat ...