



SPEECH TEXT

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MARA**

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING EXCHANGE CEREMONY
BETWEEN MARA & EY**

**ERNST & YOUNG MALAYSIA, MENARA MILENIUM, DAMANSARA
12 JANUARY 2026 (MONDAY)/ 22 REJAB 1447H**

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very pleasant morning to everyone present.

SALUTATION

INTRODUCTION

1. It gives me great pleasure to be here today for the Memorandum of Understanding Exchange Ceremony between Ernst & Young PLT and Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA). This occasion marks not only the formalisation of a strategic partnership, but also a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to develop future-ready accounting professionals for Malaysia.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF MARA

2. First and foremost, I would like to convey the warmest regards of the Director General of MARA, Dato' Zulfikri bin Osman, who regrets that he is unable to attend today's ceremony due to unavoidable commitments. He has expressed his sincere appreciation to EY, his strong support for this strategic collaboration and his best wishes for the success of today's ceremony.

3. On this occasion, on behalf of MARA, I would like to extend our sincere congratulations to EY for its well-established reputation in consistently upholding the highest standards of accountability, integrity, and professionalism. In an era where trust and good governance are critical to economic sustainability, EY continues to demonstrate that accountability is not merely a regulatory requirement, but a core value that underpins confidence in the financial system. This principle aligns closely with MARA's mission to develop competent, ethical and responsible professionals.

MARA AND EY COLLABORATION

4. The collaboration between MARA and EY is not new. Over the years, this relationship has evolved into a meaningful and impactful partnership. EY has consistently supported MARA through industrial engagement activities for our accounting students, providing valuable insights into real-world industry expectations and professional standards. EY has also supported the continuous strengthening of industry-relevant competencies in our accounting programmes, ensuring alignment with evolving market needs. More recently, EY's involvement in initiatives such as AI masterclasses for MARA leaders reflects a shared recognition that leadership and education must continuously evolve alongside technological advancement.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN ACCOUNTING STUDIES

5. Among the most significant success stories in MARA's accounting education landscape is the attainment of Platinum Status by Universiti Poly-Tech Malaysia (UPTM), alongside Gold Status achieved by Kolej Profesional MARA Ayer Molek as ACCA Approved Learning Partner. These milestones reflect the strength and quality of MARA's accounting programmes and position our institutions as regional hubs for professional accounting education with global recognition.

6. Another milestone that deserves recognition is the successful organization of the MARA Integrated Accounting Conference, MiCA 2025. The conference brought together academia, industry practitioners, and students to engage in meaningful discourse on the future of the accounting profession, particularly in the context of digitalisation and artificial intelligence. As a continuation of these efforts, MARA is pleased to announce that MiCA 2026 will be held from 22nd to 24th of April 2026. We look forward to continued collaboration with industry partners such as EY to further elevate MiCA into a premier accounting conference that contributes to professional leadership nationally and internationally.

INDUSTRY-RELEVANT PROGRAMMES AND CERTIFICATIONS

7. With 1,308 students currently registered in accounting-related programmes across University Poly-Tech Malaysia and Kolej Profesional MARA, MARA remains firmly committed to ensure that the accounting programmes offered are continuously updated and industry-driven. Our efforts go beyond academic qualifications alone. Most recently, we have equipped :

- UPTM's Bachelor of Information Technology (Cyber Security) students with CISCO Certified Network Associate (CCCA) certification.
- Diploma in Accounting students at Kolej Profesional MARA Indera Mahkota with SAP S/4HANA professional certification.
- Diploma in Computer Science students with SAS Visual Business Analytics Professional certificate.

These initiatives ensure that our graduates are exposed to enterprise-level systems widely used across global industries, enhancing their employability and readiness for industry.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS AND INDUSTRY RECOGNITION

8. Perhaps the most meaningful outcome of all our efforts is reflected in the success of our students. Today, we celebrate the achievement of fourteen (14) accounting students from MARA who have received job

offers from EY prior to their convocation. These offers, which include competitive and progressive remuneration, signify strong industries confidence in the quality, capability, and professionalism of MARA graduates. This is a clear reflection of the effectiveness of the close collaboration between MARA and EY.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE MOU

9. The exchange of this MoU today represents more than a formal agreement. It symbolises a shared vision between MARA and EY to nurture future accounting professionals who are globally competitive, technologically equipped, and grounded in strong ethical values. MARA looks forward to strengthen this partnership further for the benefit of our students, our institutions and the nation as a whole.
10. Guided by our strong partnership and mutual trust, I am pleased to officiate the Memorandum of Understanding Exchange Ceremony between Majlis Amanah Rakyat and Ernst & Young.

Thank you.