



SPEECH TEXT
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MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER' DEPARTMENT (ECONOMY)

**SIGNING CEREMONY OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON
COOPERATION IN THE SUPPLY OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG)
BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND GOVERNMENT OF THE
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
13 JULY 2021 (VIRTUAL)**

SALUTATIONS

- His Excellency Mr. Nasrul Hamid,
State Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources, Government of the
People's Republic of Bangladesh
- Excellencies High Commissioner of Bangladesh to Malaysia, High
Commissioner of Malaysia to Bangladesh
- Representatives from Ministry of Foreign Affairs Malaysia and Government of
The People's Republic of Bangladesh,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

1. It gives me great pleasure to warmly welcome you to the Signing Ceremony of Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Supply of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) Between Government of Malaysia and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. I am delighted that we have finally come to this day. As you know, we had hoped that we would sign this Memorandum of Understanding earlier, but circumstances did not allow.
2. This auspicious day marks another important milestone for both Malaysia and Bangladesh in the area of energy cooperation, particularly in the supply on LNG. It is also a testament of long-standing and progressive bilateral relationship and cooperation between both countries.

MALAYSIA- BANGLADESH BILATERAL AND TRADE RELATIONSHIP:

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

3. Bangladesh has long been a trusted friend and partner for Malaysia since its independence in 1971.
4. Malaysia and Bangladesh share many similarities as both nations are members of the Commonwealth of Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, the Developing-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation and the Non-Aligned Movement.
5. In terms of bilateral trade relations, Bangladesh is the second largest trading partner among South Asian nations.
6. Trade between Malaysia and Bangladesh was recorded at around US\$1.43 billion in 2020, as compared to US\$2.58 billion the previous year. Malaysia's total imports from Bangladesh was US\$207 million while total exports to Bangladesh was US\$1.23 billion.
7. Furthermore, a considerable number of Bangladeshi workers and professionals are living in Malaysia and contributing immensely to the development of both countries in various economic sectors.

SUPPLY OF LNG FROM MALAYSIA TO SUPPORT BANGLADESH'S ECONOMIC GROWTH

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

8. Gas and LNG sector have a robust outlook until 2040 due to increasing focus on emissions reduction and switch towards cleaner source of fuel for power generation. This is further supported by favourable policies as energy transition pushes towards use of lower carbon and more sustainable fuels.

9. The power sector remains a key to gas demand growth in the long term, led by coal-to gas switching. This switching is expected to increasing share of LNG in the energy mix. It is very timely that the market seize opportunities in gas sector before competition from renewable energy increases.
10. With regards to Bangladesh, its' robust long term economic growth, propelled by rising middle income nation with a population of over 160 million, will expand demand for energy driven by growth in power consumption.
11. In this regards, natural gas via LNG will be in a position to play an important role as a cleaner and sustainable source of energy for the electricity generation sector. At the same time, a secured and reliable source of LNG will ensure energy security for Bangladesh and supports its economic growth.
12. On this note, I am glad and pleased to state that Malaysia has established our position as one of the world's most reliable LNG suppliers. Malaysia also has sustained its market position as one of the most reputable LNG players globally.
13. With total LNG production of about 30 million tonnes per annum, Malaysia is well poised to supply LNG to global markets, including Bangladesh.

MOU ON COOPERATION IN THE SUPPLY OF LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG) BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF MALAYSIA AND GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

14. The Memorandum of Understanding between the Governments of Malaysia and Bangladesh today entails greater collaboration between both parties to mutually cooperate and facilitate the supply of LNG. I am confident that the MOU will take our partnership yet another significant step forward. Let us hope that the supply contract will be finalised soon after signing the MOU.
15. Beyond today's MOU, Malaysia looks forward to further enhancing cooperation and collaboration with Bangladesh in the energy sector, and in other broader economic sectors as well.

16. I am confident this will inspire the discovery of greater opportunities as we move towards recovery and shared prosperity for a sustainable future.

Thank you.