

OFFICIATING SPEECH

YAB Dato' Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid bin Hamidi
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

**The Malaysia Launch of the 2023 Report of the
Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change**

1 December 2023

Hospital Al-Sultan Abdullah, Puncak Alam, UiTM

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

The Esteemed

Dr Muruga Raj Rajathurai

President of the Commonwealth Medical Association
(CMA), and

Dr Marina Romanello

Executive Director of The Lancet Countdown

**YBhg. Professor Datuk Dr Shahrin Sahib @
Sahibuddin**

Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Teknologi MARA (UiTM)

YBhg. Professor Dato' Dr Mazlan Abd Ghaffar

Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Malaysia Terengganu

YBhg. Professor Emeritus Datuk Dr Raduan Che Rose

President of the National Professors Council (MPN) and
Chairman of the UiTM Board of Directors

YBhg. Professor Dr Meisam Tabatabaei

Universiti Malaysia Terengganu (UMT) and Lead
Collaborator of The Lancet Countdown

Distinguished guests, ladies, and gentlemen,

Salutations

(To be confirmed by the organiser on the day of the event)

Assalamualaikum Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.

Salam Sejahtera. Good evening, everyone.

1. *Alhamdulillah*, all praise to Allah S.W.T. for His grace and blessings and for enabling this very significant event.
2. It is an immense honour to stand before you today as Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, addressing this distinguished gathering at the **Lancet Countdown 2023 Report launch**.

3. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the organisers, particularly **The Lancet Countdown**, **UiTM**, **CMA**, and **UMT**, for orchestrating this vital platform that converges the realms of health and climate change.

Ladies and gentlemen,

4. **The Lancet Countdown 2023 Report** unveils critical findings that underscore the urgency of our collective response to the intersection of climate change and global health.
5. In the year 2022 alone, individuals were exposed to an alarming **86 days** of health-threatening high temperatures, a substantial portion of which can be attributed to human-induced climate change. This concerning trend demands our immediate attention and concerted efforts to mitigate its impacts.

6. I am proud to highlight the significant strides that the Malaysian government has taken and remains committed to in addressing the climate health agenda.
7. Through initiatives such as the **National Adaptation Plan and Nationally Determined Contribution Roadmap**, we are actively working to reduce our carbon footprint and enhance climate resilience, with a keen focus on protecting the health and well-being of our citizens.
8. Projections made by The Lancet Countdown report present a stark reality whereby a **4.7-fold increase in heat-related deaths** is anticipated by the mid-century if we fail to expedite action on climate change.
9. This is not merely a statistic – it represents *lives, livelihoods*, and the *well-being* of our global community.

Ladies and gentlemen,

10. The unequal distribution of health impacts across regions demands fair and equitable solutions to climate-related health challenges.
11. As we grapple with the consequences of climate inaction, the Lancet Countdown report highlights the opportunity that health-centred climate action offers.
12. These transformative possibilities include improved energy access, cleaner air, safer drinking water, healthier diets, and more liveable cities.
13. It is a call to action to shift our global economy to a zero-carbon footing to not only protect our planet but to enhance the health and prosperity of populations worldwide.

14. In the midst of these challenges, the Lancet Countdown report coincides with the **28th UN Conference of the Parties (COP28)** where health assumes a pivotal role.
15. The report, providing crucial evidence, supports informed negotiations and underscores the obligation for climate-health action.

Ladies and gentlemen,

16. Let us be reminded that we are now at a juncture where persistent delay in climate action is unacceptable. It is imperative to avert the worst impacts of climate change, saving lives and safeguarding the health of our global community.
17. In closing, I extend my gratitude to the **Lancet Countdown** for its tireless efforts in advancing climate-health knowledge and action.

18. Let us acknowledge the challenge before us and commit to transformative, health-centred climate action.
19. Congratulations once again to the organisers and all involved in the noble efforts to pave the way for a healthier, more sustainable future.

**Without further ado,
it gives me great pleasure to launch the
2023 Report of the Lancet Countdown
on Health and Climate Change.**

Thank you.

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**