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**SECRETARY GENERAL MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND FOOD SECURITY**

As Malaysia strives to modernise its agricultural sector, embracing innovation is not just an option—it is a necessity. DronTech Asia 2025 serves as a crucial platform for advancing drone technology, a transformative force in agriculture. It is my pleasure to extend the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security's full support for this forward-thinking initiative, which brings together key stakeholders from across the region to drive progress in agricultural technology.

In the rapidly evolving agricultural sector, technology serves as a cornerstone for enhancing efficiency, sustainability, and resilience.

Drone technology has revolutionised crop monitoring, resource management, and productivity optimisation. Recognising its transformative potential, the Ministry has strategically integrated drones into various aspects of the agricultural ecosystem, including precision mapping, aerial spraying, and real-time monitoring. While significant strides have been made, achieving widespread adoption requires addressing key challenges associated with scalability and operational efficiency.

While drones are reshaping modern farming practices, ensuring their seamless deployment across Malaysia's diverse agricultural landscape presents unique challenges. Decentralisation enables nationwide support for farmers, yet it introduces logistical complexities that can lead to inefficiencies. Without a streamlined asset management system, there is a risk of underutilisation and redundancy. To mitigate these challenges, the Ministry is exploring integrated solutions that enhance visibility, optimise drone operations, and improve overall coordination.

Beyond technology, people remain at the heart of this transformation. As drones become an integral part of modern agriculture, equipping our farmers, operators, and technicians with the right skills is just as crucial as having the right tools. Recognising this need, the Ministry is exploring the development of structured training and certification initiatives to ensure that those working with drones are fully prepared—not only to operate them, but to harness their full potential in decision-making and farm management.

The challenge of drone maintenance remains a critical consideration, particularly in remote areas where accessibility is constrained. Prolonged repair times and the availability of specialised components continue to pose operational hurdles, potentially disrupting vital agricultural activities. In response, the Ministry is actively exploring forward-looking solutions, including advanced 3D printing for on-demand parts and decentralised servicing frameworks designed to accelerate repair turnaround times. Strengthening these capabilities is paramount to ensuring that drone technology remains a dependable and resilient asset in the nation's agricultural development.

Currently, KPKM in collaboration with the Civil Aviation Authority Malaysia (CAAM) is developing a lighter version of the certification module and competency specifically for agricultural drones operation (light version of Remote Pilot Certificate of Competency-Basic (RCOC-B) certification). This effort resulting a reduction of 30-40% in the syllabus of the existing RCOC-B module. These changes will also shorten the training period with a reduction in the cost of training and certification up to 40%. Additionally, the training and test modules are being developed in the Malay language to facilitate understanding among farmers.

This initiative will be supported by KPKM through the 2025 Digital Accelerator Program (DX Padi)- Program Pemacu Digital Padi 2025 Padi, under which KPKM will provide a training and certification program for 350 Agricultural Drone Operators in 2025. This new RCOC certification will be implemented together with Remote Pilot Training Organisation (RPTO) companies recommended by CAAM. Through this initiative, the use of drones in the agricultural sector will be strengthened and conducted more professionally, covering technical, safety, and compliance aspects as set by CAAM

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