

## WELCOME REMARKS

**Yang Berbahagia**  
**Professor Datuk Dr Hajah Roziah Mohd Janor**  
**Vice-Chancellor**  
**Universiti Teknologi MARA**

**Lecture Series 1 @ UiTM with FSPPP**  
**21 June 2023 | Wednesday | 10.00 a.m.**  
**UiTM Seremban Campus**

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بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

**Yang Berhormat**  
**Senator Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir**  
Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Yang Berusaha**  
**Assoc. Prof. Dr Nor Hafizah Mohamed Harith**  
Dean of the Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy  
Studies, UiTM

**Honoured guests, ladies, and gentlemen**

### **Salutations**

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

**Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and very good morning to all.**

1. Alhamdulillah, praise be to Allah S.W.T. for His grace and blessings that made this momentous occasion possible.
2. It is a great pleasure for me to welcome everyone to **Lecture Series 1 @ UiTM with FSPPP**, especially our guest-of-honour **Yang Berhormat Senator Dato' Seri Diraja Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir** who will share his knowledge with us.
3. Thank you very much, Yang Berhormat Senator Dato' Seri, for making time to be here with us to deliver a lecture titled ***“Malaysia Madani in Countering Islamophobia”***.
4. Congratulations to the **Faculty of Administrative Science and Policy Studies UiTM** for organising an event highlighting an ongoing and significant global issue.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

5. The event today will showcase the captivating article titled *"Rethinking Islamophobia: Myth or Reality"* authored by **Dr Azrul Azlan Abdul Rahman** who is a distinguished Research Fellow at the **Centre for Defence and International Security Studies, The National Defence University of Malaysia.**
  
6. Islamophobia - the focus of the lecture today - exists as a concerning consequence of unfounded fear and hostility towards Islam. This unfortunate phenomenon leads to discrimination, exclusion, stereotyping, presumption of guilt, and even hate crimes against Muslims.
  
7. Regrettably, the media often perpetuates Islamophobia through propaganda and the shaping of negative perceptions about Islam and Muslims.

8. Moreover, false beliefs and misunderstandings surrounding Islam further contribute to the perpetuation of Islamophobic attitudes.
9. Tragic events such as the 9/11 attacks have fuelled the perception of Islam as a global threat, resulting in an increase in Islamophobic sentiments.
10. Therefore, it is essential to emphasise that Islam does not promote cruelty or violence. It is equally vital to stress that acts of extremism do not represent the true teachings of Islam.

### **Ladies and Gentlemen,**

11. The concept of ***Masyarakat Madani*** can significantly contribute to addressing the pressing concerns of Islamophobia.

12. ***Masyarakat Madani*** fosters a civil society based on democratic values, human rights, and social justice, and encompasses efforts that extend beyond the specific aim of combating Islamophobia.
13. By promoting interfaith dialogue, dispelling misconceptions, providing accurate information, countering negative portrayals, and advocating for change, ***Masyarakat Madani*** paves the way for a society that embraces diversity, respects human rights, and rejects Islamophobic attitudes.
14. Therefore, let us continue supporting such initiatives and working collectively to combat Islamophobia and create a more inclusive world.
15. With our diverse range of experiences as academics and researchers, let us make use of platforms such as this not only to exchange

knowledge but, more importantly, to engage in meaningful debates on this issue.

16. We should generate valuable ideas that can be imparted to the younger generation to produce responsible and well-informed individuals who will brave future challenges.
17. On that note, I wish everyone a productive and enjoyable session today.
18. I now give the stage to our distinguished speaker so that we can learn and gain valuable insights on this thought-provoking topic.

**Thank you.**

**Wabillahi Taufiq Walhidayah Wassalamualaikum  
Warahmatullahi Wabarakatuh.**