

**SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS BY
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ON THE OCCASION OF THE OPENING CEREMONY OF
MODIPALM CONTINUOUS STERILIZATION (CS) SYSTEM 2ND FORUM
CROWNE PLAZA MUTIARA HOTEL, KUALA LUMPUR
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1. Palm oil mills in Malaysia are required to adapt and to modernize their operations in line with our aspirations to make Malaysia a fully developed country in the not too distant future. Among the significant challenges confronting palm oil mills in Malaysia today are more stringent environmental regulations, labour shortages, rising wages, and competition from other palm oil producing countries. To address these challenges, we cannot just depend on incremental or evolutionary changes in technology. What is needed are bold innovative shifts in technology that can take palm oil milling technology to a new paradigm. A paradigm shift reflects a total change in our thinking on how things should work. Continuous sterilization may be one of the technologies that have the potential for achieving such a paradigm shift. Palm oil millers should be mindful of the opportunities created by the adoption of newer and better technology such as continuous sterilization.

2. Currently, only 25 palm oil mills in Malaysia are using this new technology for continuous sterilization. It is my hope that the ideas that will surface over the course of today's forum will help to accelerate the pace of innovation and advance the state-of-the-art of continuous sterilization technology to enable the technology to be quickly adopted by more palm oil mills.

3. Cost reduction is also possible through manpower reduction. I have been informed that manpower reduction of approximately 50 percent can be achieved by converting from the batch sterilization process to the continuous sterilization process.

4. Although the technology for continuous sterilization has been quite successfully commercialized, it must be appreciated that it is only 10 years since its humble beginnings. The technology was initially only favoured for the construction of smaller mills only. Over the last few years, the technology has successfully been adopted for building bigger mills and the biggest mill built to-date is a mill having a processing capacity of 80 tonnes per hour.