

Welcoming Remarks by the Vice Chancellor

Commonwealth Legal Education Association Conference 2026

Distinguished Chief Justices, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen

1. Welcome to beautiful Malaysia, beautiful Universiti Malaya, and of course our beautiful hall, Dewan Tunku Canselor.
2. As I look across this hall - filled with some of the finest legal minds and leaders of our time – the honour is truly mine.
3. We are also deeply honoured that the Prime Minister, Dato Seri Anwar Ibrahim will soon join us here in this hall, a reflection of the Government's unwavering commitment to the rule of law, justice, and institutional integrity. It is a clear signal that Malaysia stands firmly anchored in the rule of law, justice and impartiality, and that legal education remains central to our nation's future.
4. We gather here for the Commonwealth Legal Education Association Conference 2026 - a historic first for Malaysia. But let me be direct - this is not just another conference. We meet at a time when the global order is under strain, reshaping the very foundations of law, sovereignty, and justice.
5. In such a world, the rule of law cannot be assumed. It must be defended, strengthened, and renewed - with clarity of purpose and courage of conviction.

6. Without the rule of law to anchor power, connectivity risks chaos, and progress risks injustice. Hence, this Conference matters. It brings together the Commonwealth's finest minds to reimagine lawyering for 2030 - not as theory, but as strategy, moral conscience, and responsibility in a divided world.
7. Universiti Malaya has long been at the forefront of this mission. Since 1972, our Faculty of Law has produced leaders who have shaped the judiciary, the Bar, policy, and scholarship across Malaysia and beyond.
8. But we must go further. We are not only producing graduates - we are shaping thinkers, building institutions, and advancing world-class knowledge that strengthens the very architecture of justice and democracy.
9. As an engineer by training, I see law as a system - one that must be robust, resilient, and principled. When it fails, everything else fractures. When it holds, nations endure.
10. Let me also take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend Tan Sri Nallini Pathmanathan, whose vision and leadership were instrumental in initiating this platform and bringing this important Conference to Universiti Malaya.
11. With this, it is my honour now to invite Tan Sri Datuk Zainun Ali, Pro-Chancellor of Universiti Malaya and Consultant to this Conference, to deliver her remarks.

I wish all of you a bold, substantive, and impactful Conference.

Thank you