MALAYSIAeBiz
WEEKLY BUSINESS ROUNDUP 27 - 30 APRIL, 2015

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## This Week's Highlight :
# KL Wraps Up 26th ASEAN Summit On Positive Note


ONE FOR THE ALBUM...Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak (seventh from left) and his wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor (eighth from left) posing with ASEAN Heads of States and their respective wives at a Gala Dinner held in conjunction with the 26th ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur Sunday. -fotoBERNAMA

By Sharifah Nur Shahrizad Syed Mohamed Sharer and Noor Farhana Ahmad Norain

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Kuala Lumpur segment of the 26th ASEAN Summit ended on a positive note Monday with significant progress made towards the realisation of a People-Centred ASEAN.

ASEAN leaders gathered here to discuss the establishment of an ASEAN Community and its way forward. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak in his opening remarks emphasised the importance of the region's over 600 million people to have a sense of belonging in the grouping.

## This Week's Top Stories

Monday

### ASEAN Leaders Say No To Non-Tariff Barriers

KUALA LUMPUR -- ASEAN leaders have agreed that non-tariff barriers needed to be addressed by the regional grouping to further boost free movement of goods and services. The need to remove barriers to trade was expressed by most ASEAN leaders, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said after chairing the plenary session of the 26th ASEAN Summit at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre here Monday.



Tuesday

### M'sia On Track To 2020 Goals But Must Diversify

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia, despite remaining on track to achieve developed nation status by 2020, must continue to diversify its economy while powering on with fiscal reforms, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. "That is why we have taken steps to rationalise subsidies, while at the same time diversifying the economy and reducing reliance on oil revenue," said Najib in his remarks in the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) Annual Report 2014 released Tuesday.

Wednesday

### Iskandar Malaysia Records RM158 Bln Investments Q4

KUALA LUMPUR -- Iskandar Malaysia, the major development corridor in Johor, recorded a total cumulative committed investments of RM158 billion in the fourth quarter of 2014. Iskandar Regional Development Authority chief executive Datuk Ismail Ibrahim said Wednesday, the targeted cumulative committed investments was RM383 billion.

Thursday

### GST Among Issues To Be Discussed - Zeti

KUALA LUMPUR -- The post-Goods and Services Tax (GST) impact will be among the issues to be discussed during the monetary policy committee meeting next week, said Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz. She said the meeting will address the implications of the GST on the country's growth, consumption spending, investment activity and inflation. "This (the GST impact) is still being monitored. We are also in an environment where we have lower oil prices that is offsetting (the impact)," she told reporters after presenting Kijang Emas Scholarships to recipients here Thursday.

# SMEbrief

## ASEAN Leaders Show Keen Interest In Promoting SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR -- ASEAN leaders have expressed keen interest in promoting Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) as the driving force for the proposed ASEAN Economic Community. "They realise that emphasis should be given to SMEs and ASEAN can further work together in this regard," said ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ABAC) chairman, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Munir Abdul Majid Tuesday.

## Almost RM48 Bln Business Opportunities For Bumiputeras

KUALA LUMPUR -- Almost RM48 billion in business, financing and educational opportunities have been created for Bumiputeras under the Strategic Reform Initiative (SRI) to bridge the inequality gap as of last year, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak. The 'Carve Out and Compete' initiative was also a new development this year, with a special Bumiputera allocation of more than RM10 billion through various projects and worth almost RM24 billion since 2012, he said at the launch of the 2014 Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) reports here Tuesday.

## SME Bank: Malaysia Stays Lead In Global Islamic Finance

KUALA LUMPUR -- SME Bank is confident Malaysia will continue to lead in the development of Islamic finance globally with the introduction of Chartered Islamic Development Banker (ChIDB) programme. Its group managing director Datuk Mohd Radzif Mohd Yunus said Wednesday, the ChIDB was the banking industry's first certification programme aimed at producing well-trained and highly-competent personnel and executives in the Islamic finance industry.

## MITI To Boost SME Contributions To Exports

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) targets to increase the contributions of the small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to exports to 25 per cent by 2020. "Currently, only 17 per cent of the exports came from SMEs providing services and the ministry will make sure they increase despite the various economic challenges," its minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed during the launch of the MITI 2014 Annual Report here Thursday.



# PropUP

# Property update

## iProperty's First Property Expo In Johor In May

JOHOR BAHARU -- Malaysia's leading property website, iProperty.com, is set to launch its first property exhibition in Johor on May 1-3. Group Managing Director and Chief Executive Officer Georg Chmiel said the Home & Property Investment Fair will be held at Komtar Johor Baharu City Centre here from 10 am to 10 pm.

## AHP To Buy Land, Mall For RM240 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Amanah Harta Tanah PNB (AHP) is buying 5.35 hectares of commercial land including a three-storey mall cum hypermarket in Negeri Sembilan from Mydin Mohamed Holdings Bhd for RM240 million. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Monday, AHP said it would apply for bank loan amounting to RM125 million to purchase the asset and another RM115 million would be raised from its proposed right issue.

## New Luxury Goods Outlet At KLIA To Boost Tourism

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government has approved a new outlet, Mitsui Outlet Park, which is situated close to the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, to sell luxury goods. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the initiative, under National Key Economic Area (Tourism), aimed to further boost the tourism sector in Malaysia. The outlet was expected to be the biggest business complex in Asia-Pacific, he said at the launch of the 2014 Economic Transformation Programme Annual Report here Tuesday.

## JCorp To List RM900 Mln Islamic Reit Q3

PUTRAJAYA -- Johor Corp (JCorp) plans to list its RM900 million Islamic Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), Al-Salam, on the Main Market of Bursa Malaysia in the third quarter of this year. JCorp president/chief executive officer Datuk Kamaruzzaman Abu Kassim said Tuesday, the initial portfolio of Al-Salam would include 31 assets to be acquired from Damansara Assets Sdn Bhd (DASB) and QSR Brands (M) Holdings Sdn Bhd (QSR).

# MARKET

BURSA MALAYSIA

## Scoreboard

Gainers - 372

Losers - 422

Not Traded - 694

Unchanged - 330

Value - 2173395830

Volume - 15158395

## Exchange Rate
(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

| | Buying | Selling |
|---|---|---|
| USD | 3.5600 | 3. 5630 |
| EUR | 3.9897 | 3.8941 |
| GBP | 5.5006 | 5. 4073 |
| 100 YEN | 2.9944 | 3.9971 |
| SGD | 2.6917 | 2.6958 |

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

### BURSA Malaysia Eases On Profit-Taking

KUALA LUMPUR -- Shares on Bursa Malaysia closed lower Thursday for the fourth consecutive day on profit-taking ahead of the long weekend, dealers said.

At 5pm the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) fell 24.66 points to 1,818.27 after fluctuating between 1,818.27 and 1,841.06 throughout the day.

The local bourse will be closed on Friday and next Monday for Labour Day and Wesak Day.

There were 422 losers and 372 gainers, with 330 counters unchanged, 694 counters untraded and 35 others suspended.

Total volume decreased to 1.52 billion shares worth RM2.17 billion from Wednesday's 1.59 billion shares worth RM1.9 billion.

Main Market volume decreased to 914.37 million units worth RM2.05 billion from Wednesday's 945.81 million units worth RM1.74 billion.

### FOREX: Ringgit Ends Slightly Lower Against US Dollar

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit ended slightly lower Thursday after gaining for three days despite a rebound in oil prices and Federal Reserve's (Fed) decision to delay interest rate increase, a dealer said.

At 5 pm, the ringgit was quoted at 3.5600/5630 against the greenback compared with 3.5580/5610 on Wednesday. The dealer said the rebound in the oil prices gained some investors confidence. However, concerns over Fed's rate increase delay capped the gains in the local note Thursday.

Most emerging Asian currencies fell against the greenback. The ringgit, however, was quoted mostly lower against a basket of major currencies.

It appreciated against the Singapore dollar to 2.6917/6958 from Wednesday's 2.6926/6967 and fell against the British pound to 5.5006/4073 from 5.4758/4818 Wednesday.

The local unit edged down against the yen to 2.9944/9971 from 2.9849/9884 on Wednesday, but slipped against the euro to 3.9897/8941 from 3.9156/8203 yesterday.

### Money-Market: Short-Term Rates Close Stable On BNM's Intervention

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates ended on a stable note Thursday on Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) intervention to absorb excess liquidity from the financial system.

The liquidity surplus in the conventional system fell to RM25.1 billion from RM31.78 billion earlier, while in the Islamic system, it eased to RM7 billion from RM13.64 billion.

In the morning, BNM called for four tenders of a conventional money market, an Al-Wadiah tender, Commodity Murabahah Programme and a Repo tender.

The central bank also conducted a late conventional money market tender for RM25 billion and a RM7 billion Al-Wadiah money market tender, both for five-day money. The overnight Islamic reference rate stood at 3.21 per cent, while the one-, two and three-week rates stood at 3.27 per cent, 3.32 per cent and 3.35 per cent, respectively.

### KLIBOR Futures Contracts Close Untraded

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contracts on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed untraded Thursday. May 2015, June 2015, July 2015 and September 2015 stood at 96.32, 96.35, 96.39 and 96.42 respectively. Open interests totalled 922 contracts. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR was pegged at 3.72 per cent.

### KLCI Futures Close Easier In Line With Lower Cash Market

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contracts closed lower Thursday in line with the easier cash market. At the close, April 2015 and September 2015 were 22.50 points lower at 1,822.50 and 1,812.5, respectively, while May 2015 was down by 28 points to 1,815 and June 2015 declined 26.5 points to 1,817.5. Turnover decreased to 17,510 lots from 24,844 lots on Wednesday, while open interest narrowed to 50,958 contracts from 60,704 contracts. The benchmark FBM KLCI finished 24.66 points easier at 1,818.27 Thursday.

## Agrobank Opens 46 AgroAgent Outlets So Far

By Siti Baaqiah Mamat

ROMPIN -- Agrobank has opened 46 AgroAgent outlets nationwide as of now since its services were launched last December in its efforts to provide banking services in the rural areas. Chief Executive Officer Datuk Wan Mohd Fadzmi Wan Othman said Agrobank wanted to open 336 outlets by year-end to ensure that its basic banking services were made available to rural communities as soon as possible. "Our goal is to make AgroAgent as the effective banking solution to tackle difficulties faced by those in rural areas seeking financial institution facility," he told Bernama here Monday. Wan Mohd Fadzmi said this after Agriculture and Agro-based Industry Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri opened the "Entrepreneurs Chat" event in Felda Keratong 3, here Monday.

## MAA Takaful Warns Public Of Personal Accident Fraud

KUALA LUMPUR -- MAA Takaful Bhd (MAA Takaful) is reminding the public to be cautious of Qaseh Qayyum Enterprise fraudulent activity in offering Personal Accident (PA) insurance to the public using MAA Takaful's name and logo. The company clarified that it does not have relations with the said company and neither has it issued a Certificate of Insurance bearing such a logo. "The public are warned and reminded to be cautious and to not easily fall prey to such fraudulent activity," it said in a statement here Tuesday. In addition, it said there was an earlier announcement notice made by MAA Takaful, published on October 11, 2014 with regards to the complaint against Qaseh Qayyum Enterprise. "MAA Takaful takes this matter seriously and has been working with the relevant regulatory and authority bodies to further investigate the matter," it said.

## ASEAN Welcomes Implementation Plan For Post-2015 Financial Integration

LANGKAWI -- ASEAN leaders Tuesday welcomed the commitment to develop an implementation plan for a post-2015 ASEAN financial integration under the Roadmap for Monetary and Financial Integration of the regional grouping. They are also pleased that the Protocol to Implement the Sixth Package of the Financial Services Liberalisation under the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Services has been signed by all ASEAN Finance Ministers. This was contained in the Chairman's Statement issued following the conclusion of the 26th ASEAN Summit, presided over by Malaysian Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, in Kuala Lumpur and Langkawi on April 26-27. "The Protocol contains the enabling provision for implementation of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework (ABIF) towards achieving greater financial and economic integration," it said.

## Ringgit Seen Strengthening 5 Pct Versus USD Year-End

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit is expected to appreciate by five per cent against the US dollar by year-end as the greenback is now in a stabilisation mode, says UBS Investment Bank's senior global economist/managing director, Paul Donovan. "The ringgit is biased to strengthen in the range of five per cent ... along this line and nothing too dramatic. However, we must also accept the fact that the currency (will continue to be) more volatile," he told reporters at the media roundtable session here Tuesday. However, he said, the ringgit against the US dollar exchange was not the best indicator to measure the weaknesses and the strengths of the former. "We have to see how the ringgit has been performing against the regional currencies as well," he said.

## Tune Allocates US$10 Mln To Buy Indonesia's Insurance Firm

KUALA LUMPUR -- Tune Ins Holdings Bhd, the insurance arm of Tune Group, will set aside about US$10 million to acquire an insurance firm in Indonesia. Tune Insurance Chief Executive Officer, Junior Cho, said the commercial terms of the acquisition had been finalised and the company was awaiting regulatory approvals from both countries. "We are positive of closing the deal by mid-year and the acquisition paid for via internally-generated fund," he said at the Tune INSpire Corporate Social Responsibility programme here Tuesday. Cho said Tune Ins has lined up plans, including restructuring and on how it intended to manage the insurance business in Indonesia. The event collected US$73,205.20 in donations and then the company made the decision to top up the amount to US$100,000. The money was presented to four non-governmental organisations for children's cancer treatment, rehabilitation and awareness.

## Financial Services Stakeholders Can Change Financial Landscape - Pemandu

KUALA LUMPUR -- The good performance of Malaysia's financial services sector in 2014 shows its stakeholders are capable of transforming the financial landscape going forward, says the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu). The sector last year surpassed its key performance indicator targets, resulting in the broadening of the country's bond market and the formation of the ASEAN Banking Integration Framework, it said. "Malaysia remains the leading issuer of Sukuk, making up close to two-thirds of the global Islamic debt market," said Pemandu in its Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) Annual Report 2014 released Tuesday. The local bond market rose to RM1.09 trillion as at Sept 30, 2014, a 5.83 per cent increase over 2013, while RM89.3 billion worth of corporate bonds were issued in the first three quarters of the year. For Sukuk, RM203.6 billion worth of Islamic papers were offered last year, accounting for around 65.8 per cent of global sales.

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**Digi Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Eases To RM626 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Digi.Com Bhd's pre-tax profit eased to RM626 million in the first quarter ended March 31, 2015, from RM654.54 million registered in the same period last year. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday, the company said revenue, however, rose to RM1.79 billion from RM1.72 billion previously. Net profit for the quarter slipped 1.2 per cent to RM479.21 million from RM485.15 million a year ago due to seasonally higher device sales and impact from lower margins, it said. Digi said it would pay a first interim tax-exempt dividend of 6.1 sen per ordinary share equivalent to RM474 million or a 99 per cent payout ratio to shareholders on June 5, 2015. During the quarter, Digi recorded strong subscriber growth, strengthening its customer base by 270,000 to 11.7 million, while postpaid subscription rose to a three-year high.

**MSC Positive On FY15 Financial Results**

GEORGE TOWN -- Malaysia Smelting Corp Bhd (MSC) is positive on its financial results ending December 2015 mostly driven by the smelting business. Chief Executive Officer Chua Cheong Yong said the smelting segment would continue to be profitable this year while the mining business would be price-related. "The mining business is more sensitive to the tin price. The production levels of smelter and mining would be maintained, but the mining division's profitability will depend much on the tin price," he said after the company's annual general meeting here Monday. Chua said with the current tin price at US$15,800 per tonne, MSC's mining division is likely to struggle, although the smelter business would continue to be profitable.

**Maxis Delivers Strong Operating Performance In Q1 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The positive momentum from the transformation initiatives in Maxis is now driving its operational indicators upwards. The company registered solid subscriber growth and enhanced data usage, driven by winning value propositions and a high performing network in its first quarter of 2015. For the first time since 2010, Maxis bucked the trend of a traditionally slow first quarter (Q1) to deliver a service revenue of RM2.13 billion, up 1.6 per cent from the fourth quarter (Q4) of 2014. The quarter also saw Maxis adding 328,000 new revenue generating subscriptions (RGS), bringing its total RGS base to 12 million. With its network modernisation and LTE expansion delivering tangible improvements in customer experience and driving data usage, Maxis now has nine million mobile Internet users and its blended smartphone penetration stood at 57 per cent this quarter. Chief Executive Officer Morten Lundal said it was a solid turnaround story for the company's prepaid segment.

**MHB Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM35 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Marine and Heavy Engineering Holdings Bhd's (MHB) pre-tax profit for the first quarter (Q1) ended March 31, 2015 rose to RM35.002 million from RM34.087 million recorded in the same period a year ago. Revenue increased to RM719.496 million from RM671.458 million previously, MHB said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia here Monday. In a separate statement, newly appointed managing director and chief executive officer, Abu Fitri Abdul Jalil, said the business environment remained challenging, however, MHB was cautiously optimistic in building up its orderbook in the medium term. He said MHB's immediate priorities were to focus on smaller engineering, procurement, construction, installation and commissioning jobs to keep the yards running. "We are currently pursuing some RM7 billion worth of projects both internationally and locally," Abu Fitri said.

**CIMB Niaga's Bottomline To Significantly Improve In Q2 - Nazir Razak**

KUALA LUMPUR -- CIMB Holdings Bhd expects the bottomline of CIMB Niaga, the group's operations in Indonesia, to significantly improve in the second quarter (Q2). Chairman Datuk Seri Nazir Razak said the performance would be backed by CIMB Niaga's promising topline, including revenue, loan growth, net interest margin and others. "I estimate that the performance will be better in Q2, as the provisioning will still be elevated and then significantly improve in the second half of 2015," he told reporters after the group's annual general meeting here Tuesday.

**MAHB Bags RM23.58 Mln Project In Qatar**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd's (MAHB) unit, Malaysia Airports Consultancy Services Middle East LLC, has secured a RM23.58 million contract at the New Doha International Airport (NDIA) in Qatar. A formal contract will be entered into between the parties by May 1, said MAHB in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday. The letter of award, received on March 31, is for the provision of facility management services for NDIA project office, NDIA mock-up warehouse and associated facilities at the NDIA Steering Committee project office in Doha. MAHB added that the project would be for three years, with scope of works including maintenance of civil engineering facilities, structures and road ways.

**Agriculture NKEA Output To Increase In 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Agricultural production under the Agriculture National Key Economic Area (NKEA) is expected to increase in 2015 as most anchor companies enter their production stage. However, new projects and the entrance of new companies would taper due to the lack of other big players readily available to join the market and the scarcity of land, according to the Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) in its Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) Annual Report 2014. It said the scarcity of land would require the agriculture sector to increase productivity with little-to-no-increase in new areas. While other factors such as the lack of big players, apart from existing Entry Point

Project partners, to drive growth and weather uncertainties may threaten growth prospects in 2015.

**E&E Industry Poised To Continue Growth In 2015**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The electrical and electronics (E&E) industry is expected to continue growing in 2015, driven by activities in smart manufacturing and continued investments in the sector's National Key Economic Area (NKEA) and Entry Point Projects (EPP). The total approved investments of RM8.9 billion in 2014 exceeded the target of RM5.1 billion, while the RM38.26 billion in cumulative investments approved from 2012-2014 are expected to start yielding results beginning 2015. Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu), in its Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) Annual Report 2014 released Tuesday, said investors were expected to realign their products and services in tandem with global trends. These trends include the emergence of Internet of Things (IoT) and nanotechnology, which would create new opportunities for industry growth in the upstream segment in areas such as research and development, and downstream segment in marketing, distribution and sales areas.

**Govt Eyes 50 Pct LTE Penetration By 2017 - Pemandu**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Broadband access in Malaysia has reached 67.3 per cent and the government aims to double the Long Term Evolution (LTE) penetration to 50 per cent by 2017. Adopting new communication infrastructures would allow industries to seize opportunities for expansion either into new product lines or to reach out to a wider global market, said The Performance Management and Delivery Unit (Pemandu) in its Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) 2014 Annual Report. "The communication content and infrastructure (CCI) is key to other National Key Economic Areas (NKEA) which rely on communication infrastructure to further boost economic potential," it said. Communications and Multimedia Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Shabery Cheek was quoted as saying in the report that the CCI industry was no longer just an enabler to other industries but a new growth area for the country and globally. He said broadband access would continue to remain the crux of this NKEA's aim as access to the Internet was deem vital to socio-economic progress.

**BAT's Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Rises To RM324.68 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- British American Tobacco (M) Bhd (BAT)'s pre-tax profit for the first quarter ended March 31, 2015 rose to RM324.68 million from RM301.19 million in the same period last year. Revenue increased to RM1.27 billion from RM1.15 billion previously, the company said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Tuesday. "The better results were driven by an increase in domestic and duty-free volumes, and by the impact of the price increase in the domestic market in November 2014," it said.

**Sunway REIT Q3 Pre-Tax Profit Slips To RM56.82 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Sunway Real Estate Investment Trust's (Sunway REIT) pre-tax profit for the third quarter ended March 31, 2015 decreased to RM56.82 million from RM58.48 million in the same quarter last year. Revenue, however, increased to RM110.71 million from RM108.08 million previously. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday, Sunway REIT said the retail segment continued to drive growth for Sunway REIT's assets portfolio, but the performance was however affected by lower contribution from hotel and office segments. Chief Executive Officer, Datuk Jeffrey Ng, said the company continued to remain resilient despite increasingly challenging operating environment on the back of intensifying competition as well as weakening business and consumer sentiment.

**Westports Eyes Throughput Of Over 9 Mln TEUs This Year**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Westports Holdings Bhd aims to grow its container throughput to more than nine million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) this year, said chief executive officer, Ruben Emir Gnanalingam. "It will be in the range of five to 10 per cent and there is a possibility, if we continue at this rate, we might hit the 10 million-mark next year or in 2017," he told reporters after the company's annual general meeting here Wednesday. Westports' throughput hit a record 8.4 million TEUs in the 2014 financial year, the highest being in November of 764,000 TEUs. Operational revenue also posted a record in the same financial year, increasing 11 per cent to RM1.5 billion. Westports raised its market share to 76 per cent in FY2014 for all container volume passing through Port Klang and 37 per cent in Malaysia, 15 per cent from Straits of Malacca and nine per cent for South East Asia. Another record was set with the world's largest container vessel, the China Shipping Container Lines' (CSCL) MV CSCL Globe with capacity of 19,000 TEUs, making its maiden call at Westports in December last year.

**MISC Q1 Pre-Tax Profit Falls To RM511.85 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- MISC Bhd's pre-tax profit for the first quarter ended March 31, 2015 fell by three per cent to RM511.85 million from RM527.87 million in the same quarter last year. Group revenue, however, increased by 8.7 per cent to RM2.49 billion from RM2.29 billion previously on improved freight rates in petroleum business and commencement of finance lease income of a floating, production, storage and offloading unit in September 2014, it said in a statement here Thursday.

**MNCs Capitalising On Asia-Pacific Aerospace Supply Chain - MIDA**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Multinational companies (MNCs) are capitalising on the opportunities presented by the aerospace supply chain within the region, following a huge growth in Asia-Pacific towards the industry. Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) Deputy Chief Executive Officer Datuk Phang Ah Tong said currently some MNCs were sourcing close to five per cent of the parts in Europe and only between three and four per cent in Asia. He said these MNCs planned to increase sourcing up to 20 per cent and reduce the share in Europe as the parts are competitively-priced here. Malaysia's total exports of aerospace-related products in 2014 rose by 15.7 per cent to US$879 million (RM2.9 billion), mainly contributed by aircraft parts and components, propellers and rotor and air combat simulators, he added. "That is why we are enhancing the supply chain here as Malaysia has the capabilities," Phang told reporters here Monday.

**Rafidah Calls For Level Playing Field In ASEAN**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Former International Trade and Industry Minister Tan Sri Rafidah Aziz has called on ASEAN to create a level playing field for all its member countries. She said the ASEAN community should allow its plans to be realised, including the removal of non-tariff barriers, by all in the regional grouping. "And then, you move forward to improve on what is not adequate and also ensure that those which have not been ratified or implemented, get done," she told reporters on the sidelines of the 12th ASEAN Leadership Forum, held in conjunction with the 26th ASEAN Summit here, Monday. Rafidah also agreed on the central authority initiative, to ensure that the plans can be implemented. "We should not be so idealistic, as to not take into account domestic imperatives. Everybody has domestic and economic problems. Let's focus on that before we push into total duty free, for example," she added.

**1MDB Issues Should Be Put 'Behind Us' - Nazir**

KUALA LUMPUR -- CIMB Holdings Bhd Chairman, Datuk Seri Nazir Razak, Tuesday said issues pertinent to 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) should be put 'behind us' as they could impact investors' sentiment towards Malaysia. He also reiterated and backed Governor Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz's statement saying the 1MDB is not a systemic risk to Malaysia's financial system and the movement of the ringgit. "But I think we probably should disclose (what needs to be disclosed) in order for people to have a full picture and allay concerns. "My strong advice is to put this issue behind us," he told reporters after the group's annual general meeting here here Tuesday. He was responding to a question whether the 1MDB issue would bring any impact or risk to a wider financial system in Malaysia and the ringgit's performance.

**Gas Malaysia-SDOE JV To Distribute Biogas CNG**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Gas Malaysia Bhd has entered into a joint venture (JV) with Sime Darby Offshore Engineering Sdn Bhd (SDOE) to undertake distribution business of biogas compressed natural gas (CNG) extracted from the palm oil mill effluent. In a statement here Tuesday, Gas Malaysia said it would hold 49 per cent stake in the JV and SDOE the rest. "The JV will serve as a platform for Gas Malaysia to supply natural gas to new customers currently not serve by its existing pipeline," it said. The company said both parties sought to optimise the combined strengths of each partner in their respective fields. It said Gas Malaysia's vast experience in marketing and promotion of natural gas usage to industrial, commercial and residential sectors in Peninsular Malaysia through pipeline distribution offered potential network and infrastructure to facilitate the JV's proposed business activities.

**Bintulu Port's Cargo Handling Up 3.63 Pct To 45,395 Mln Tonnes**

KUCHING -- Bintulu Port's cargo handling for 2014 rose by 3.63 per cent to 45,395 million tonnes from 43,805 million tonnes in 2013. Bintulu Port Holdings Bhd chairman, Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, said of the 45,395 million tonnes, 25,487 million tonnes were liquefied natural gas (LNG) and 19.908 million tonnes non-LNG. In 2013, 25,479 million tonnes were LNG and 18,326 non-LNG, he said. "The handling of the containers in 2014 increased by 8.05 per cent to 270,495 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) compared with 250,353 TEUs in 2013. "The number of ships calling at the port rose by 2.9 per cent to 8,478 from 8,239 in 2013," he said at a media briefing after the company's annual general meeting here Tuesday.

**Malaysia's Job Advertisement Volume Up 15 Pct In Q1**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's overall annual growth in job advertisement volume increased by 15 per cent in the first quarter of 2015, according to the Asia Job Index published by the international recruitment consultancy, Robert Walters (RW). In a statement here Tuesday, RW said there has been constant growth and progress in the last five years for Malaysia in the shared services and fast-moving consumer goods sectors. "This has in turn created job opportunities for accounting, finance and information technology professionals with existing firms and have even expanded to global operations. "Market sentiment in Malaysia remains positive and we are seeing employers being more committed to the long-term strategy of investing in talent," it said.

**Malaysia, A Strategic Location For Start-Ups**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia is a strategic location for start-up founders to begin their businesses before expanding regionally, said managing director of Mercatus Ventures Sdn Bhd. Mercatus is one of the co-investment partners of Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd. Managing Director of Mercatus, Raiyo Nariman, said Malaysia's population of 30 million provided a decent market size for start-ups. "The market size here is really attractive. If you have an idea, you should prove it here before you go regional. "It is also important to work with a partner that understands and willing to risk it for you," he told a media briefing here Tuesday. Nariman said Malaysia was also considered an affordable country in the region because of the exchange value and cost of living.

**Cradle Fund Increases Amount For Equity Co-Investment**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Cradle Fund Sdn Bhd has increased its amount for equity co-investment to RM56.7 million following the inclusion of five new partners. "Cradle and the five new partners provided a combined investment amount of RM28.7 million plus another RM28 million raised from four other partner companies last year, which bring us RM56.7 million in total. "It is a relatively substantial amount raised in less than 10 months and with these partners, we believe we can secure a minimum of seven co-investment deals by this December," Cradle chief executive officer, Nazrin Hassan, told reporters after the document exchange between Cradle and the five new partners here Tuesday. The five new equity co-investment partners are Captii Ventures Pte Ltd, Kathrein Ventures Pte Ltd, KK Fund, Start Up Nation Sdn Bhd and Mercatus Ventures Sdn Bhd will each take part in a one-to-one equity co-investment exercise with Cradle, each investing up to RM500,000.

**Be Inventors, Business Entities Told**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysian business entities should transform from being just importers and distributors of products to inventors. International Trade and Industry Minister, Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said the government has been supportive of Malaysian companies making the shift with many research and development initiatives and assistances. "We have to further boost our capacity to develop our own products and technologies. So, one day we are able to export to countries like South Korea and Japan," Mustapa said prior to witnessing the Foresight Industries Sdn Bhd's partnership signing ceremony Tuesday. Foresight, a local manufacturer and distributor of healthcare products, sealed partnership agreements with South Korean and China companies for technology transfers and product development in Malaysia.

**MATTA Partners GfK To Help Grow M'sian Tourism Industry**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Association of Tour and Travel Agents (MATTA) is collaborating with Germany-based market research firm Growth from Knowledge (GfK) to exchange data and provide travel-related insights for the Malaysian tourism sector. At the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two entities here Wednesday, MATTA President Hamzah Rahmat said participating MATTA members will be providing GfK with weekly consol
idated, live booking data. "I am confident that the valuable insights derived from the partnership between MATTA and GfK will be beneficial to grow the Malaysian travel industry to its fullest potential," he said.

**Growing Propensity Among Malaysian Consumers To Shop Online**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysians are joining other South-East Asian consumers in a growing propensity to shop online, particularly for personal care items. In a statement here Wednesday, Nielsen said based on its Global Survey on The Future of Grocery, at least one third of the 518 respondents intended to buy items such as body wash, shampoo and conditioner online within the next six months. Other top 10 grocery items which Malaysian consumers would purchase online in the next six months included laundry detergent, dish soap and hand or body lotion, it said. It said 16 per cent of the Malaysia consumers would remain vigilant with their online orders for home delivery or using online/mobile coupons for their online shopping (16 per cent). Nielsen said only nine per cent of Malaysian consumers were willing to use a virtual supermarket for their grocery shopping. It said the survey also revealed the growth in modern retailing channels such as hypermarkets and supermarkets, putting open-air/wet markets at their expense.

**Malakoff's Institutional Price, Final Retail Price Fixed At RM1.80 A Share**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's largest independent power producer, Malakoff Corporation Bhd Wednesday announced a fixed institutional price and the final retail price of RM1.80 per share each for its initial public offering (IPO). In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Wednesday, Malakoff said the announcement was made in conjunction with its listing on the main market of Bursa Malaysia Securities Bhd, which is set for May 15. Malakoff is expected to raise RM2.74 billion in proceeds from the listing of 1.52 billion shares at a maximum indicative price of RM1.80 per share. The IPO will be the largest listing since 2012, representing up to 30.4 per cent of Malakoff's enlarged issue and paid-up capital.

### Malaysia Global Business Forum Appoints Yong Soo Heong As Chairman

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia Global Business Forum (MGBF) Monday announced the appointment of Datuk Yong Soo Heong as its Chairman effective April 1. Yong, retired as Chief Executive of BERNAMA, the Malaysian National News Agency, upon reaching the mandatory retirement age of 60 for government employees in October 2014. He has been in journalism for the past 40 years, starting as a journalist with the Straits Echo in Penang and later joined BERNAMA where he made his mark in his career. Yong was BERNAMA's Editor-in-Chief from 2007 to 2012, making him the first BERNAMA business journalist to rise to that position before being elevated to Chief Executive in 2013. "This will be an extension of my career as it gives me time to also interact with people who make things happen. As Malaysia aspires towards developed nation status, I find that we have to learn more from people who have been at the top of their game," said Yong commenting on his appointment. "This is where I come in, bringing people who matter to share their insights and experiences with Malaysians through our forums," he said in a statement here Monday.

### Kinohimitsu To Introduce Lifestyle Concept Bar Beyond Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR -- Kinohimitsu, which has just launched its first Beauty Bar in Malaysia, plans to introduce the lifestyle concept bar to the rest of Asia soon. Malaysia, Singapore and Vietnam are among the first countries witnessing the launch of the Beauty Bar which presents customers with an added experience of being able to "comfortably browse for their beauty and health needs". Kino Biotech's Capabilities Development Director, Kristin Chong, said that it is all about acquainting a consumer with the brand's philosophy and values. "The Beauty Bar does not just represent a transaction point. We want consumers to walk away feeling confident to take charge of their wellness with the use of our products and services, as well as having introduced them to a trusted partner who is able to help with their journey," she said in a statement here Monday.

### RHB Group Appoints Khairussaleh Group CEO, Group MD

KUALA LUMPUR -- The RHB Banking Group has appointed Datuk Khairussaleh Ramli as the group chief executive officer (CEO) and group managing director (MD) of RHB Banking Group with effect from May 5, 2015. It also announced the appointment of Khairussaleh as CEO and MD of RHB Capital Bhd effective the same date. The group received the approval by Bank Negara Malaysia recently. Khairussaleh takes over the reins from Kellee Kam, who will be leaving the banking group soon. In a statement here Monday, said RHB Capital chairman, Datuk Khadar Merican, said the group was confident with Khairussaleh's in-depth understanding of the financial services industry.

### BNM Appoints New Assistant Governor

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) Tuesday announced the appointment of Mohd Adhari Belal Din as Assistant Governor effective May 1, 2015. In a statement here Tuesday, BNM said as Assistant Governor, Mohd Adhari would be responsible for the Strategic Management, Human Capital Development Centre, Information Technology Services and Strategic Human Capital Departments. The central bank said Mohd Adhari would also continue as the Director of Strategic Human Capital Department. Prior to his appointment, Mohd Adhari served as the Director of the Strategic Human Capital Department, as well as, the Strategic Management and Risk Management Departments.

### Bernama Coop, I Synergy Int'l Ink MoU For MyKad Smart Shopper Programme

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bernama Berhad Cooperative and I Synergy International (M) Sdn Bhd (ISI) tuesday signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to expand a new loyalty rewards programme known as MyKad Smart Shopper (MSSP). The MSSP programme, which is conducted by ISI through Affiliate Junction (AJ) is the easiest reward points programme whereby MyKad is used as the members' ID, while new customers can register for free via AJ. Besides getting points from 1,100 participating stores, MSSP members can also redeem points when they purchase goods at any registered store. ISI chief executive officer Datuk Lawrence Teo said after the MoU signing ceremony at Wisma Bernama here, to date, about 800,000 MyKad holders had registered as MSSP members and the Bernama cooperative as an authorised agency was seen as capable of spreading the benefits of the programme through its media expertise.

### KLIA To Have Its Own Shopping Mall

KUALA LUMPUR -- Travellers at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) will have their very own shopping mall to spend time at, in between catching flights to destinations. The Mitsui Outlet Park KLIA Sepang will open on May 30 and is sited very near the KLIA and directly accessible from the highway. It will feature an exciting array of offerings, ranging from luxury and branded products, fashion apparels and accessories, perfumes and cosmetics, chocolates and confectionery, kids and sports wear, to household items and luggage. It will also offer a scrumptious choice of gastronomic delights and spanning 24,000 square metres of space under the first phase of its development.

### AirAsia X Offers Free Flights To Nepal For NGOs, Humanitarian Agencies

KUALA LUMPUR -- AirAsia X is offering free flights to Nepal from Wednesday until May 10, 2015, for non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and humanitarian agencies to aid relief efforts in light of the recent earthquake. In a statement issued here Wednesday, it said the airline is facilitating free flights for the said period based on seat availability. "Our hearts go out to everyone affected by the earthquake in Nepal and we pledge to do what we can to help alleviate grief and distress experienced by the victims, and pray for their safety and well-being," said AirAsia X Group Chief Executive Officer Datuk Kamarudin Meranun. All NGOs and humanitarian agencies can send in their requests for flight coordination to AirAsia Foundation at foundation@airasia.com.

# GTP Running Smoothly, Producing Positive Results - PM


POSITIVE RESULTS...Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin together with Cabinet Ministers at the launch of the 2014 GTP and ETP reports in Kuala Lumpur Tuesday -- fotoBERNAMA

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Abdul Razak Tuesday said all programmes planned under the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) are running smoothly and producing positive results.

“The efforts in GTP and ETP are among proofs that the government is not arbitrarily sitting cross-legged. In the simple terms of the young nowadays, what the government administration is doing is not personal indulgence.

“This has been the basis of my leadership. Engaging and understanding the needs of the rakyat (people) is paramount in guiding me to deliver the right programmes for all Malaysians,” he said when launching the 2014 GTP and ETP reports in the capital, which was broadcast live by RTM.

The first horizon of the GTP (GTP 1.0) was from 2010 to 2012, GTP 2.0 from 2012 to the end of this year while GTP 3.0 and onwards will determine developed nation status for Malaysia.

SUCCESS STORY

The GTP has seven National key Result Areas (NKRAs), namely - Tackling The Cost of Living of The people; Boosting Rural Development; Upgrading Urban Public Transportation; Boosting the Standard of Living of Low Income Households; Ensuring Quality Education; Reducing Crime and Eradicating Corruption.

The reports presented Tuesday night is the true story of achievements which are supported by facts, data and legitimate figures.

“Most important, all that is recorded and contained in the GTP and ETP reports...all are based on facts and figures, which are recognised by numerous quarters, whether at national level or international, specifically audited by certified auditors. Meaning, we don’t concoct the figures and digits,” Najib said.

FIVE KEY INDICATORS

The Prime Minister outlined five main indicators in the implementation of GTP and ETP to the entire nation and people in the five years they were implemented from 2010.

Firstly, he said, the per capita income of the people rose from US$7,059 (RM24,706) in 2009, to US$10,426 (RM36,491) in 2014; secondly, investment remained high with RM142 billion (RM497 billion) in 2009 and RM228 billion (RM798 billion) last year.

He said that other indicators were the creation of 1.5 million new jobs as of 2014 in the NKRA sectors since 2010; more than five million people in the rural areas had received basic facilities such as electricity and clean water supply since GTP and ETP were implemented.

In addition, almost 170,000 poor people had escaped poverty; as a result of the increase in their income in the last five years.

--BERNAMA