

WEDNESDAY

## Embrace Industry 4.0 For Economic Success, - PM

KUALA LUMPUR -- Manufacturing firms can no longer reap the same yields as in previous decades if they continue to rely on capital and labour as productivity levers, says Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad. A readiness to adapt to the Industry 4.0 Revolution would have a bearing on economic success and Malaysia needs to quickly embrace it to propel productivity and further enhance competitiveness, he said in his keynote address at the launch of the Industry4WRD National Policy on Industry 4.0 here, Wednesday.

THURSDAY

## Fiscal Position, Stable Economic Growth Focus Of 11MP Final Period

KUALA LUMPUR – The final period of the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) between 2018 and 2020 is considered as the transformational period and the government's focus will be on balancing its aim of strengthening the fiscal position and emphasis on economic growth and stability, says Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmi Ali. The Pakatan Harapan government would give special attention to restore investors' confidence in the nation's economic prospects that would create value, drive foreign direct investment that will provide new jobs, and transfer high impact technology to create higher value chain, he added in his winding up session on the Mid-Term Review proposal in Parliament Thursday.

FRIDAY

## 2018 GDP Forecast At 4.8 Pct

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia's gross domestic product (GDP) is projected to grow by 4.8 per cent and 4.9 per cent this year and next year respectively, supported by firm domestic demand and favourable external sectors. According to the Economic Outlook 2019 report released by the Ministry of Finance Friday, the outlook for the Malaysian economy remains resilient in the near term despite considerable external and domestic headwinds.

## This Week's Highlight : 2019 Budget: Taxing It Right, For A Solid Future



Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng presenting the 2019 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat Friday. Also seen are Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail. -- fotoBERNAMA by Dayana Nabila Shaipul Anuar

KUALA LUMPUR – The Pakatan Harapan-led government's maiden Budget comes with some tough measures in terms of taxes as expected, plans for further fiscal consolidation as well as the right incentives for businesses to prosper and bring Malaysia's economy back on a stronger footing. Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng also

announced several proposals, including the imposition of excise duty from April 1, 2019 of 40 sen a litre for two categories of ready-to-drink sweetened beverages – those containing more than 5 gm of added sugar or other sweetening agent in 100 ml., as well as fruit and vegetable juices with more than 12 gm. in 100 ml.

## This Week's Top Stories

MONDAY

### Investment In Services, Manufacturing Primary Sectors Up 17.7 Pct 1H2018

KUALA LUMPUR – Malaysia continues to attract new approved direct investments in the services, manufacturing and primary sectors in the first half of 2018 (1H 2018) with a total of RM80.2 billion, an increase of 17.7 per cent over the same period last year (RM68.2 billion). Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) in its statement Monday said the country's services sector continued to account for the largest share of approved investments, contributing 63.5 per cent or RM50.9 billion.

TUESDAY

### Half Of Gov't's New Loans Used To Roll Over Debts

KUALA LUMPUR -- More than half of new loans taken by the government during the year are used to roll over its debts, the Dewan Rakyat was told Tuesday. Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Amiruddin Hamzah said when winding up debate on the mid-term review of the 11th Malaysia Plan for his ministry, from January to September this year, the country's new debts amounted to RM87.5 billion and RM46.3 billion was used for repayment of long-term debts that had reached maturity.

## SMEbrief

**Govt Refining Entrepreneurship Schemes - Redzuan**

KUALA LUMPUR – The government is refining existing entrepreneurship schemes and has no plans to abolish them, says Entrepreneur Development Minister Mohd Redzuan Md Yusof. The schemes in the process of empowerment include the Secretariat for the Advancement of Malaysian Entrepreneurs (SAME), more than 50 per cent of whose members are Chinese small and medium enterprises (SMEs), he said when winding up debate on the 11th Malaysia Plan Mid-term Review (11MP MTR) for his ministry here Wednesday.

**Govt To Continue Facilitating Financing For SMEs**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government will continue to facilitate financing for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) since they are the backbone of the economy.

The Ministry of Finance, in its Economic Outlook 2019 released Friday, said taking into cognizance SMEs' contribution to the economy, it is crucial to ensure broad funding options are available to support their growth, especially for working capital, improving or upgrading production processes, enhancing research and development activities, and consolidating debt or refinancing. As at end-July 2018, SME financing is mainly from financial institutions at about 94.9 per cent, with the remainder from the capital market. About 36.1 per cent of total business entities have benefited from banking sector funding, with 17.5 per cent being non-SMEs and 18.6 per cent being SMEs from various sectors including finance, manufacturing, construction as well as restaurants and hotels.

**Govt To Speed Up Digitisation Among SMEs**

KUALA LUMPUR – The government will continue to improve the digital ecosystem, including streamlining related regulations

and upgrading infrastructure to accelerate digitisation among the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), said the Finance Ministry. In the Economic Outlook 2019 Report released Friday, it said SMEs were not using the Internet optimally to unlock opportunities available due to lack of digital skills and access to talents, high costs, low speed and unreliable connectivity. So far, initiatives such as the Digital Transformation Acceleration Programme and the Digital Free Trade Zone (DFTZ) have been introduced to assist SMEs in leveraging digital technologies in their operations. The report said most subsectors in the services sector were not optimising the Internet usage except real estate and business services; finance and insurance; and information and communications technology (ICT).

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## PropUP

**Outlook For Malaysian Property Market To Remain Stable**

By Rosemarie Khoo Mohd Sani

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's property market outlook would continue to remain stable and healthy in the coming years despite declines in asking prices for homes in the latest PropertyGuru Market Index (PMI), said leading online property portal, PropertyGuru Malaysia. In the third quarter (Q3) of 2018, the PMI showed that asking prices by real estate developers and individual owners, nationwide, dipped 1.8 per cent from the preceding quarter while year-on-year, prices showed a 2.5 per cent drop, Country Manager Sheldon Fernandez told Bernama.

**Sunway Reit To Double Property Value To RM15 Bln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Sunway Real Estate Investment Trust (REIT), which is repositioning itself from a retail-focused REIT to a diversified one, targets to double its property value to RM15 billion by the 2025 financial year.

In a statement Thursday, Sunway REIT Management Sdn Bhd Chief Executive Officer Datuk Jeffrey Ng said the target was set during a recent board strategic review.

**Construction Sector To Improve Slightly In 2019**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The growth momentum for the construction sector is expected to improve slightly in 2019, expanding 4.7 per cent following an increase in new planned supply in affordable houses

## Propertyupdate

and industrial segments. The Economic Outlook 2019 Report, released by the Ministry of Finance Friday, however, said a review of several infrastructure projects as well as subdued activities in the non-residential sub-sector was expected to weigh down on the sector's performance.

**RM1 billion Fund For First House Purchase: Lim**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara will be setting up a RM1 billion fund to finance the first house purchase for those with monthly income not exceeding RM2,300, says Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng. The fund would be provided from Jan 1, 2019 to purchase affordable houses priced up to RM150,000, he said at the tabling of the budget themed "Credible Malaysia, Dynamic Economy, Prosperous Rakyat" Friday.

## MARKETS



## Scoreboard

Gainers -	744
Losers -	203
Not Traded -	588
Unchanged -	305
Value -	2525531189
Volume -	31649159

**Bursa Malaysia Ends Higher**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia ended on a high note Friday with most counters across the board recording gains as investors' optimism was uplifted by the ongoing 2019 Budget announcement. At 5 pm, the benchmark FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) was higher at 1,713.87, up 6.95 points, from Thursday's close of 1,706.92. The index opened 4.06 points stronger at 1,710.98 and moved between 1,705.31 and 1,720.13 throughout the day. Market breadth was positive, with gainers thumping losers 744 to 203, while 305 were unchanged, 588 untraded and 13 others suspended. Volume rose to 3.16 billion units worth RM2.52 billion from 2.18 billion units valued at RM1.66 billion Thursday. Public Investment Bank said the overnight better performance externally, particularly in the US had a positive affect on traders. "Sentiment was also lifted by stronger earnings reports and initial jobless claims falling to 214,000 last week," it said in a note. Main Market volume rose to 2.03 billion shares worth RM2.31 billion from 1.43 billion shares worth RM1.5 billion Thursday.



## Exchange Rate

(Ringgit : Foreign Currency)

	Buying	Selling
USD	4.1600	4.1650
EUR	5.4196	4.4266
GBP	4.7582	5.7643
100 YEN	3.6889	3.6940
SGD	3.0321	3.0362

Source: Bank Negara Malaysia

**FOREX: Ringgit Continues To End Higher Against US Dollar**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The ringgit continued its upward movement to end higher against the US dollar for the second consecutive day on increased buying support, as investors reacted positively to the 2019 Budget announcement, dealers said. At 6 pm, the ringgit stood at 4.1600/1650 versus the greenback from Wednesday's close of 4.1770/1820. A dealer said the better ringgit performance was also in line with Asian currencies as investors in the region benefitted from the softened greenback over a report that President Donald Trump was taking steps to resolve the US-China trade dispute. However, the local unit traded easier against other major currencies, except for the Japanese yen. The ringgit fell against the Singapore dollar to 3.0321/0362 from 3.0270/0318 on Thursday, and vis-a-vis the euro, it depreciated to 4.7582/7643 from 4.7530/7595 previously. It decreased against the British pound to 5.4196/4266 from 5.3908/3977 on Thursday but appreciated against the Japanese yen to 3.6889/6940 from 3.6968/6015.

**Short-Term Rates Close Stable On BNM's Operations**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Short-term interbank rates closed stable

Friday following Bank Negara Malaysia's (BNM) operations to reduce excess liquidity from the financial system. The surplus in the conventional system fell to RM24.71 billion from RM28.76 billion in the morning, while in the Islamic system, it declined to RM12.01 billion from RM17.87 billion previously. Earlier, BNM conducted three money market tenders and one Islamic range maturity auction (IRMA) Qard tender. At 4 pm, the central bank conducted a RM24.2 billion conventional money market tender and a RM12.0 billion Murabahah money market tender, both for three-day money. The average overnight interest rate stood at 3.19 per cent, while the one-week, two and three-week rates were pegged at 3.26 per cent, 3.30 per cent and 3.35 per cent respectively.

**KLIBOR Futures End Untraded**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The three-month Kuala Lumpur Interbank Offered Rate (KLIBOR) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives was untraded Friday. Spot month November 2018 and December 2018 were both pegged at 96.27, January 2019 stood at 96.25, while March 2019 remained at 96.22. Both volume and open interest remained nil. At the 11 am fixing, the underlying three-month KLIBOR stood at 3.69 per cent.

**KLCI Futures Contract End Higher**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The FTSE Bursa Malaysia KLCI (FBM KLCI) futures contract on Bursa Malaysia Derivatives closed higher on better demand. November 2018 improved 13 points to 1,718, December 2018 added 12.5 points to 1,716.5, March 2019 grew 12 points to 1,712 and June 2019 gained eight points to 1,708. Turnover increased to 11,214 lots from 6,702 lots recorded on Thursday while open interest rose to 35,065 contracts from 30,299 contracts Thursday. The underlying benchmark FBM KLCI closed 6.95 points higher at 1,713.87.

### AmBank's 'AMY' Enhances Digital Banking Experience

KUALA LUMPUR -- AmBank Group has enhanced its AmOnline mobile banking application with a virtual financial assistant feature, named AMY, primarily focused on assisting customers on credit card services. AMY, the acronym for AmBank Malaysia, is integrated into AmBank's AmOnline mobile banking application, enabling customers to make enquiries and get response immediately through a chatbot that is accessible 24 hours a day. "We are pleased to introduce AMY, the next frontier of customer service. The launch of AMY is indeed an important milestones for us as we continue our journey to revolutionise our customers' banking experience," said AmBank Group chief executive officer, Datuk Sulaiman Mohd Tahir Monday.

### Maybank Indonesia PATAMI Rises To Rp1.5 Tln In M9FY18

KUALA LUMPUR -- PT Bank Maybank Indonesia Tbk's (Maybank Indonesia) profit after tax and minority interest (PATAMI) increased 3.4 per cent to Rp1.5 trillion (Rp1,000,000 = RM274.5) for the nine-month period ended Sept 30, 2018, on the back of higher net interest income and improvement in provisioning level. In a statement Monday, the bank said better asset quality, a solid growth in Sharia business, coupled with improvement in subsidiaries and sustained strategic cost management also contributed to the improved performance.

### Online Banking Tools Key To Effective Finance Mgmt - Standard Chartered

KUALA LUMPUR -- Online banking tools are key to effective financial management

with payments, transfers, investments and financial advice available at the touch of a button. According to Standard Chartered's Emerging Affluent Study 2018, 64 per cent of Malaysia's emerging affluent believed managing their money digitally has helped them get closer to meeting their financial goals, and 67 per cent feel familiarity with digital tools has been vital to their personal success. In addition, 63 per cent of emerging affluent consumers in Malaysia said they felt having more control over their money and investments, thanks to online banking.

### 2019 Budget: EPF Hopes For A Consolidated Social Wellbeing Blueprint

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Employees Provident Fund (EPF) hopes the government will set up a consolidated social wellbeing blueprint for Malaysia under the 2019 Budget. Chief Executive Officer Tunku Alizakri Alias told reporters Tuesday, the government has been spending RM24 billion, annually, in terms of social benefits administration but it was not done effectively as there were no single plan for this.

### BNM To Lower Daily CTR To RM25,000 From Jan 1, 2019

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) will be lowering the daily cash threshold report (CTR) to RM25,000 from the current RM50,000, effective Jan 1, 2019. BNM Governor Datuk Nor Shamsiah Mohd Yunus said Tuesday, the move would bring Malaysia's CTR on par with other countries, as the current threshold was too high and disconnected from the size of the country's economy, especially in relations to purchasing power.

### ASEAN Economies Have Strong Foundation To Facilitate Islamic Banking

KUALA LUMPUR -- Moody's Investors Service said ASEAN economies had a strong foundation to facilitate Islamic banking growth, with right regulations in place. Moody's Vice President and Senior Analyst Simon Chen said in a statement Tuesday, although the foundation was strong, various challenges are evident, but the authorities were stepping up measures to develop the sector.

### Net Financing Growth Continues To Support Economic Activity - BNM

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia's net financing recorded a growth of 7.0 per cent in September compared with 7.4 per cent in August, says Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM). BNM, in its "Monthly Highlights-September 2018" report released Wednesday, attributed the growth to outstanding corporate bonds of 10.8 per cent in September compared with 13.4 per cent in August, and outstanding banking system loans improved to 5.7 per cent from 5.4 per cent.

### Maybank Expects Mobile Banking Transactions To Exceed RM40 Bln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Maybank, Malaysia's largest banking group by assets, expects its mobile banking transactions to exceed RM40 billion this year compared with RM25 billion last year. Group President and Chief Executive Officer Datuk Abdul Farid Alias told reporters Thursday, this was driven by greater demand for non-cash based transaction convenience among its customers and higher acceptance of the QRPay system introduced in January.



## FINANCING YOUR BUSINESS ACROSS THE WORLD



## MISC Bags US\$176 Mln FSO Contract In Vietnam

KUALALUMPUR -- MISC Bhd (MISC), through its 51 per cent-owned joint venture with PetroVietnam Technical Services Corporation (PTSC) – Malaysia Vietnam Offshore Terminal (L) Limited (MVOT) -- has been awarded a time charter contract by Idemitsu Kosan Co, Ltd (IKC) for the provision of a Floating, Storage and Offloading Vessel (FSO) in Vietnam. Under this contract, which is valued at approximately US\$176 million, MVOT will be responsible for the engineering, procurement, construction, installation, commissioning, lease and operations of the FSO, it said in a statement Monday.

## NanoMalaysia Expects RM1.35 Bln Future Income From 5 Graphene Projects

KUALA LUMPUR -- NanoMalaysia Bhd expects to generate RM1.35 billion from the activation of five more projects related to the development of graphene products, bringing the graphene technology sector's total future revenue for 2018 to RM2.7 billion. Chief Executive Officer Dr Rezal Khairi Ahmad told a media conference Monday, under the National Graphene Action Plan 2020 (NGP), this field was seen as lucrative and could potentially achieve RM20 billion in gross national income (GNI) impact.

## Bursa Malaysia PATAMI Rises To RM172.2 Mln In 9M2018

KUALA LUMPUR -- Bursa Malaysia Bhd achieved a higher profit after tax and minority interest (PATAMI) of RM172.2 million for the nine-month financial period ended Sept

30, 2018 (9M2018), an increase of 2.6 per cent from RM167.8 million reported in the same period a year ago. The growth in PATAMI was primarily due to higher operating revenue of RM402.3 million, which was 2.6 per cent higher than in the previous corresponding period, it said in a filing to the exchange Monday. Revenue rose to RM421.08 million from RM415.62 million a year ago.

## #MYCYBERSALE 2018 Surpasses Target

KUALA LUMPUR -- #MYCYBERSALE 2018 generated RM390 million in gross merchandise value (GMV), beating a set target of RM380 million and achieving 25 per cent annual growth. In a statement Tuesday, the National ICT Association of Malaysia (Pikom) said export revenue also rose to RM51 million in GMV this year compared with RM39 million in 2017 thanks to shoppers in 32 countries counting Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Asia, North and South America.

## Nestle's Q3 Net Profit Up 15.7 Pct To RM137.68 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd's net profit for the third quarter of 2018 (3Q18) rose 15.7 per cent to RM137.68 million from RM119.01 million in 3Q17, driven by strong domestic and export sales. Revenue for the quarter ended Sept 30, 2018 increased 8.3 per cent to RM1.43 billion from RM1.32 billion previously, it said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia Tuesday.

## Lotte Chemical's Q3 Net Profit Falls To RM217.09 Mln

KUALA LUMPUR -- Lotte Chemical

Titan Holding Bhd's net profit for the third quarter ended Sept 30, 2018, fell to RM217.09 million from RM230.13 million recorded in the same period last year. Revenue, however, rose to RM2.41 billion from RM2.01 billion previously, the group said in a filing with Bursa Malaysia Wednesday. The company attributed the higher revenue to increased sales volume, driven by improvement in production quantity and increase in average product selling price.

## Langkawi Rakes In RM20 Mln As Initial Returns From PATA Travel Mart 2018

By Hamdan Ismail

LANGKAWI -- Langkawi raked in more than RM20 million in revenue from the three-day Pacific-Asia Travel Association (PATA) Travel Mart 2018 held last month. Langkawi Development Authority (LADA) Chief Executive Officer Datuk Azizan Noordin said this was in addition to over RM100 million in trade value expected from sales of tour packages during the event from Sept 12-14, involving 1,500 delegates from 70 countries. "Most of the delegates stayed back in Langkawi for up to four days after the event, taking up post-tour packages, as well as touring on their own," he told Bernama recently. LADA had also organised a Royal Kedah-Perlis Tour, featuring several places of interest in the two states, which attracted 36 travel agency senior managers from 25 countries. "With this tour, we aim to make Langkawi the gateway for tourists to explore the abundance of attractions available in Kedah and Perlis," he added.

## Proton Sales Grow 12.6 Pct In October

KUALA LUMPUR -- Perusahaan Otomobil Nasional Sdn Bhd recorded a 12.6 per cent growth in sales for Proton cars in October following a market correction in September due to the introduction of Sales and Services Tax (SST). Despite a contracted market share in October, the car manufacturer sold 5,093 units of Proton cars, an increase of 569 units compared with the previous month. "The sales volume achieved is the highest for 2018 outside of the bumper sales period from June to September, fuelled by a zero Goods and Services Tax environment. "With the much hyped Proton X70 launch only occurring later in the year, the growth points towards customers showing renewed interest in the current range of Proton cars," the company said in a statement Thursday. Proton's market share as a percentage of the Total Industry Volume last month was estimated at 10.7 per cent, which is in line with the average figure for the year, it added.

## Supermax Rises To RM35.94 Mln In Q1

KUALA LUMPUR -- Supermax Corporation Bhd's pre-tax profit rose to RM35.94 million for the first quarter ended Sept 30, 2018 (Q1) from RM27.90 million a year ago. Revenue increased 17.6 per cent to RM367.05 million from RM312.02 million previously from global sales of its natural rubber and nitrile rubber gloves. In a filing with Bursa Malaysia Thursday, Supermax said the better performance was mainly on account of the added capacity from the remaining lines that were

commissioned at its two newest plants in the October to December 2017 quarter. Moving forward, the company said the global market for disposable gloves remained vibrant for both the natural rubber and nitrile variants, driven by various factors including rising healthcare awareness, healthcare reforms mandating its use in the medical and other sectors, and rising consumption by non-traditional users such as the beauty sector and even household users.

## TNG Digital Eyes 67,000 Taxi Drivers For Touch 'N Go eWallet

KUALA LUMPUR -- TNG Digital Sdn Bhd targets to have 67,000 EzCab and independent taxi drivers registered with its Touch 'n Go eWallet by end-2019 following its partnership with EzCab Sdn Bhd and Public Cab Sdn Bhd. TNG Digital Chief Executive Officer Syahrudin Samsudin said the partnership would be the first in a series of collaboration aimed at introducing digital solutions designed to empower taxi drivers by incorporating their feedback as Malaysia moved towards a cashless society. "Taxi drivers are pioneers of door-to-door mobility and through the Touch 'n Go eWallet, we are thrilled to support the taxi industry. This is more than just a payment solution as the roll-out of this secure and convenient cashless platform will allow us to help taxi drivers increase their customer base and tap digital savvy users," he told reporters Thursday.

## KNM Unit Secures RMB40 Mln Contract

KUALA LUMPUR -- KNM Group Bhd's wholly-owned subsidiary,

KNM Special Process Equipment (Changshu) Co Ltd, has secured a RMB40 million contract from China National Chemical Engineering Co Ltd for the supply of vessels. In a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday, the group said the vessels would be for the construction of an Integrated Petrochemical Complex in Atyrau, Kazakhstan. KNM Group said the supply and delivery duration of the products is approximately 12 months commencing from the respective purchase order dates. "The award is expected to contribute positively to KNM Group's earnings for the financial years ending Dec 31, 2018 and Dec 31, 2019," the group said in a filing to Bursa Malaysia Thursday.

## Hero Market To Open Seven More Stores Within Three Years

JOHOR BAHRU -- Hero Market plans to invest RM5 million to open five supermarkets in Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru within the next three years to meet increasing demand. Director Francis Teng said the company also planned to open two RM2 budget shops in these two cities. "We see the rapid growth of population (in Kuala Lumpur and Johor Bahru) besides potential prospects and business opportunities to better reach our customers," Teng told reporters after the opening its new supermarket in Capital City Mall, Tampoi, Friday. Hero Market currently has 26 supermarkets located in the Klang Valley, Penang and Johor Bahru.



## Region's First Smart 'Cash Free' Convenience Store Opens In Ipoh

IPOH -- In what is seen as the first of its kind in Southeast Asia, a smart convenience store which accepts only cashless transactions, opened its doors to the public in Ipoh. Called the 'Twenty4' smart department store located in a shopping mall here, the store also made its way into the Malaysia Book of Records (MBOR). Its Chief Executive Officer Kenny Ng told reporters Monday, Twenty4 was a convenience store selling various local and international products using high-tech self-service machines.

## Subang Jaya Businesses Ordered To Pay MyCC Penalty

KUALA LUMPUR -- Having been found guilty of infringing Section 4 of the Competition Act 2010 (Act 712), seven tuition and day care centres in SS19 Subang Jaya have been ordered to pay a penalty of RM33,068.85. The Malaysian Competition Commission (MyCC) in a statement Monday said that the businesses entered into an agreement in May 2017 to fix and synchronise their fees. The centres were ordered to immediately abandon the agreement and enrol in an MyCC e-learning course on Competition Compliance for Small and Medium Enterprises within a month of the order.

## MAHB To Reformat 5 Airports As Lifestyle Destination Airports

KUALA LUMPUR -- Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd (MAHB) is reformatting five of its international airports, positioning them to become lifestyle destination airports,

thus helping to increase the retail income to the Group's revenue, Senior General Manager Commercial Services Mohammad Nazli Abd Aziz told reporters Monday. The airports are Langkawi International Airport (LGK), Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KUL), Kuching International Airport (KCH), Penang International Airport (PEN) and Kota Kinabalu International Airport (BKI).

## Ports In Johor To Become Halal Trade, Logistics Hub

JOHOR BAHRU -- The Johor Port Authority (LPJ) is planning to turn ports in the state into trade and logistics hub for halal products through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) agreement entered into with the Iskandar Halal Park (IHP) Monday. The MoU, which took place in conjunction with the Port Week 2018 here, will see both parties working together to ensure that the logistics environment in Johor is geared towards trade and logistics movement of halal products, particularly in the IHP. This is important as the halal product market is expected to reach US\$58.3 billion in 2020, LPJ General Manager Muhammad Razif Ahmad told a press conference after the ceremony.

## Govt Welcomes Legislation Against Economic Sabotage

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government welcomes the proposal to enact the Economic Sabotage Act as it will help spur Malaysia's economic growth, said Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali. He said the proposed law would also curb the selling of contracts and approved permits (AP) licence. "The secured projects and AP permits given to them (business owners) earlier were sold off just to get immediate

gains from the transaction. We will consider it as sabotage to our economy and we certainly want a serious penalty and punishment to be imposed on those who commit these offences," he told reporters Tuesday.

## IR4.0 Needs To Nurture Dynamism At The Workplace

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Fourth Industrial Revolution (Industry 4.0) needs to nurture dynamism at the workplace to enable digital transformation across industries, says Allianz Malaysia Bhd. In a statement Tuesday, Head of Human Resources Wong Woon Man said technology-related skills would be the foundation for future jobs skills and it should be complemented with the softer human skills of establishing relationships, communication and influence.

## Johor To Attract Investors To Develop MRO Sector

KULAI -- The state government plans to attract big players in the aviation sector to invest and develop the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) industry in Johor as part its continuous strategy to bring in more quality investments. State International Trade, Investment and Utilities Committee Chairman Jimmy Puah told reporters Tuesday, one of the plans would be to talk with Airbus on the possibility of working together to create an environment that could support and develop the MRO industry here.

## MTIB Aims To Raise Value Of Furniture Exports

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Timber Industry Board (MTIB) aims to increase the value of furniture exports by producing more high quality and value-added products, as the industry

gradually shifts to own design manufacturing (ODM) and own brand manufacturing (OBM) production lines. MTIB Director-general Datuk Dr Jalaluddin Harun said Tuesday to stay globally competitive, Malaysia can no longer rely on producing more products by volume and own equipment manufacturing (OEM), which is a reproduction or copies, as this is not sustainable and of less value.

### **MITI Says It Has Taken Steps To Address CRC Issues**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) has taken steps to address issues faced by local cold rolled coil (CRC) producers, including facilitating discussions between them, the galvanisers and coaters. In a statement Tuesday, MITI said during the meeting, the end-users had given their commitment to supporting local producers by buying more local CRC.

### **Serba Dinamik Buys Shares, RCPS In E&E Gas For RM26.44 Mln**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Serba Dinamik Holdings Bhd, through its wholly-owned subsidiary Serba Dinamik Sdn Bhd (SDSB), Wednesday announced the proposed subscription of shares representing a 42.26 per cent stake in E&E Gas Sdn Bhd (EGSB) for RM15.998 million and 10.445 million redeemable convertible preference shares (RCPS) in EGSB for RM10.445 million. EGSB is principally engaged in the business of providing integrated mid-scale liquefied natural gas (LNG) infrastructure. "On top of our existing compressed natural gas plant in Muaro Jambi, Sumatra, Indonesia, we now move one step further to strengthen our natural gas business by having this proposed subscription, as

well as to align with our plan to enlarge our business in asset ownership," Serba Dinamik Group Managing Director and Group Chief Executive Officer Datuk Mohd Abdul Karim Abdullah said in a statement Wednesday.

### **Media Prima Digital, Kitamen Team Up To Boost e-Sport Industry**

KUALA LUMPUR -- Media Prima Digital, the innovation, digital marketing and technology arm of Media Prima Bhd, has teamed up with local e-sport company Kitamen to boost the e-sport industry in Malaysia. Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Rafiq Razali told reporters Wednesday, Media Prima Digital and Kitamen would work together to educate, cultivate and provide exposure for the industry to the public.

### **Petronas Gas Makes A "U" Turn In GPHD Services, Delivery Charges**

KUALA LUMPUR -- PETRONAS Dagangan Bhd Wednesday announced that there will be no price increase for its Gas PETRONAS Home Delivery (GPHD) service and the delivery charges remains the same. The decision was made after taking into consideration public feedback and concerns on the price adjustment of the delivery charges, it said in a statement Wednesday.

### **Govt Mulls One-Stop Centres For Efficient Cargo Clearance**

PUTRAJAYA -- Malaysia is mulling the setting up of One-stop centres to handle cargo clearance in each of the ports situated along the Straits of Melaka to improve efficiency, said Transport Minister Anthony Loke Siew Fook. Loke told reporters Wednesday, the time currently taken to handle cargoes was too long as it involved up to 28 agencies before

clearance can be obtained.

### **Industry4WRD To Boost Manufacturing Sector's Adoption Of IR4.0**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The government aims to boost the manufacturing sector with launch of a new national industrial policy, Industry4WRD, to enhance the adoption of Industry 4.0 (IR4.0). International Trade and Industry Minister Darell Leiking said Wednesday, the new policy was tailored to Malaysia's context and needs by focusing on manufacturing and manufacturing-related services.

### **MATRADE To Leverage On China Expo To Push Exports**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) is aiming to leverage on the China International Import Expo 2018 (CIIE) to push export opportunities in the country's largest trading partner. The expo, which takes place from Nov 5 – 10 in Shanghai, will be participated by 80 Malaysian companies, with the mission led by Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Darell Leiking, it said in a statement Friday.

### **MATRADE Spearheads Malaysia's FMCG Promotion At Canton Fair**

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) is spearheading Malaysia's exports of fast-moving consumer goods (FMCG) promotion at the 124th China Import and Export (Canton) Fair, Phase 3 (Autumn Session) 2018. In a statement Friday, MATRADE said 24 Malaysian companies took part in the event, held from Oct 31-Nov 4 in Guangzhou, Guangdong, to promote food and beverages, health and wellness products, and household items, among others.



## Tabung Harapan Malaysia Closes On Dec 31

PUTRAJAYA -- Tabung Harapan Malaysia (THM) will be closed on December 31, says Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng Monday. He said in a statement that the Cabinet had agreed to close THM on Dec 31 after it was set up seven months ago. "Malaysians who wish to donate can do so before Dec 31," he added.

## Malaysians Choose Petronas As Putra Brand Of The Year

KUALA LUMPUR -- Petronas was named Putra Brand of the Year, a premier accolade accorded to the preferred brand chosen by Malaysian consumers. The Petronas Primax and Pertronas Syntium were also awarded the Putra Brand Gold Award in the Automotive Fuel, Lubricants and Accessories category. This is the ninth win for the Primax fuel and the seventh win for the Syntium lubricants, it said in a statement Monday.

## Nestle Malaysia Appoints New CFO

KUALA LUMPUR -- Nestle (Malaysia) Bhd has appointed Craig Grant Connolly as the new chief financial officer (CFO), effective Feb 1, 2019. In a statement Monday, the company said Connolly will replace Martin Kruegel, who has led Nestle Malaysia's finance team since 2014, and will be taking on a new role as CFO of Nestle Japan.

## QSR Brands, Takexco Malaysia Ink Distribution Deal

KUALA LUMPUR -- QSR Brands (M) Holdings Bhd has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Japan-based hygienic solutions provider, Takexco Malaysia Sdn Bhd (Takexco), to become the sole distributor of halal-certified food-grade sanitiser products in Malaysia. QSR Brands Managing Director Datuk Seri Mohamed Azahari Mohamed Kamil told reporters Monday, the collaboration with Takexco was in line with the government's aspiration

to strengthen Malaysia's trade relations with Japan.

## Canton Fair Phase Three To See 24 Malaysian Cos Participating

KUALA LUMPUR -- The 124th China Import and Export (Canton) Fair, Phase 3 (Autumn Session), from Oct 31 - Nov 4 in Guangzhou (Guandong province), will see the participation of 24 Malaysian companies involved in the fast moving consumer goods segment. Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) Director of China and Northeast Asia Section Ong Yew Chee said in a statement Monday, the objective of participation in the fair was not only to expand Malaysia's exports to China, but also leverage on the strong presence of foreign buyers at the event.

## Astro, Les Copaque In Strategic Pact On Animation Content, Distribution, Marketing

KUALA LUMPUR -- Astro Malaysia Holdings Bhd and Les' Copaque Production Sdn Bhd have entered into a strategic collaboration on content sharing, distribution and marketing of animation content produced by Les' Copaque. This collaboration is aimed at combining the expertise and media assets of both companies to strengthen the local and regional animation industry. In a joint-statement Tuesday, the companies said the collaboration also involved the sale of exclusive merchandises on Astro's Go Shop and various fans activities to reward loyal customers under Astro Circle.

## MIDA Launches i-Services Portal To Reduce Services Sector Deficit

KUALA LUMPUR -- The Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) has launched i-Services Portal with the aim to reduce the services sector's trade deficit, says Chief Executive Officer Datuk Azman Mahmud. He told reporters Tuesday, the deficit recorded in this sector widened to RM22.8 billion in 2017 compared with

the RM18.9 billion recorded in 2016. In 2016, the export of services amounted to RM147.6 billion against imports worth RM166.5 billion while in 2017, the export of services was recorded at RM159.2 billion versus imports of RM182.0 billion.

## AEON Big's Food Bank Aimed At Reducing People's Burden

KUALA LUMPUR -- Hypermarket chain, AEON BiG has taken an early measure of implementing the 'Zero Waste' programme which can indirectly help reduce the cost of living for the people. The Kuala Lumpur-Level Malaysia Food Bank Programme pioneer project, launched Tuesday, was in response to the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry's proposal for excess food from the retail industry be controlled through corporate social responsibility.

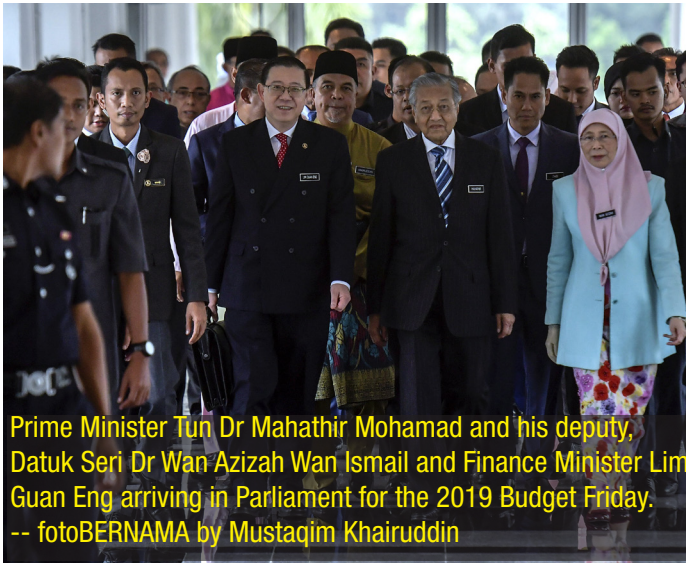
## Malaysia's Largest LSS Project Begins Operation

KUALA LUMPUR -- Tenaga Nasional Bhd's (TNB) large scale solar (LSS) plant in Mukim Tanjung 12, Kuala Langat, Selangor -- Malaysia's largest LSS project to-date -- began transmitting power to the national grid last week. In a statement Tuesday, the utility company said work was progressing well for the solar plant, which was expected to generate its full capacity of 50 megawatts by year-end.

## Muhamad Shahril Appointed To Danajamin's Board

KUALA LUMPUR -- Danajamin Nasional Bhd (Danajamin) has appointed Muhamad Shahril Othman as its new non-independent non-executive director, effective Oct 19, 2018. "We are confident that Muhamad Shahril's valuable experience in investment, financing and risk matters will complement our existing BOD members," said Danajamin managing director and chief executive officer, Mohamed Nazri Omar, in a statement Wednesday.

## PH Gov't's New Malaysia Based On Good Governance - PM



Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy, Datuk Seri Dr Wan Azizah Wan Ismail and Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng arriving in Parliament for the 2019 Budget Friday.  
-- fotoBERNAMA by Mustaqim Khairuddin

KUALA LUMPUR (Bernama) – The Pakatan Harapan (PH) government, which took over Putrajaya after winning the 14th General Election on May 9, 2018, is confident of its ability to transform the country towards a New Malaysia based on principles of justice, good governance, integrity and the rule of law.

The new government will also adopt changes in policies, strategies and way of implementation to fulfill the people's expectation and to rebuild and restore the nation's glory, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad in the "Economic Outlook 2019" report, the first presented under the PH government.

The 142-page report was released by the Ministry of Finance in Parliament today.

The 93-year old prime minister also said in attaining a developed and inclusive nation status, the government had implemented various reforms to enhance economic growth and the wellbeing of the people.

In this regard, the government through the Ministry of Finance (MoF) is promoting efforts to create an entrepreneurial state and promote cooperation among the 4Ps, namely, People, Professionals, Private and Public to spearhead various national development initiatives.

### FISCAL MANAGEMENT

He added to enhance prudent fiscal management, the MoF would accelerate a zero-based budgeting system, rationalise

assistance programmes, improve procurement processes and broaden the revenue base.

Touching on Malaysia's aspiration to re-position its status internationally through active participation in the global community, Dr Mahathir said the country will continue to strengthen trade ties with major and potential trading partners through a conducive and business-friendly environment in line with the principles of Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality.

"By upholding the principle of prosper-thy-neighbour, we will continue to emphasise on strengthening cooperation with ASEAN members, as well as, other regional trade blocs.

"In addition, greater focus will be given to strengthening bilateral ties with China and Japan in line with the Look East Policy," said Dr Mahathir.

Meanwhile, in achieving the objectives outlined in Vision 2020, the prime minister said the government would ensure the Malaysian economy continues to be on a sustainable growth trajectory by providing a conducive and favourable environment to attract investors and businesses.

### ENHANCE PRODUCTIVITY

"Hence, the industries should leverage these opportunities by embracing advanced technology to enhance productivity and competitiveness," he added.

The government also recognises the importance of the role of the young generation in driving future growth, as such, efforts will be undertaken to equip this generation to become a highly- and digitally-skilled workforce in tandem with the Industrial Revolution 4.0.

"We believe this is the responsibility entrusted upon us. The government is confident that with the cooperation and support of the people, this responsibility will be carried out successfully to attain hopes of building a New Malaysia with dignity and integrity," said Dr Mahathir.

He reiterated that the support of a majority of Malaysians, that determined the success of PH in the 14th general election, was a remarkable achievement that will be part of the nation's history, thus, marking the first change of a ruling party's 61-years since independence.

-- BERNAMA

