

2020 POST-BUDGET DEBATE

Date: 14 October 2019 (Monday)

Time: 1.00-5.15pm

Venue: Conference Hall 1, Sasana Kijang, BNM

Fee: RM250 (member)

RM300 (non-member)

RM100 (student)

For registration:

<https://forms.gle/VqzzSuzaXrKxXbFd9>

Budget 2020 carries the theme 'Shared Prosperity: Sustainable and Inclusive Growth Towards High Income Economy'. This budget is for the tail end of 11th Malaysia Plan (2016-20) (11th MP). This will be the second budget for the relatively new Pakatan Harapan Government. The 2019 Budget was a reaction to the trillion over Ringgit Malaysia national debt left behind by the Barisan Nasional Government. Trimming of public expenditure and raising government revenue were prime objectives of that budget. Many projects (mainly China related), for example, the East Coast Rail Link were initially mothballed and later when the economic impact was fathomed, reviews were considered, and the projects were renegotiated at lower more economical terms and resumed.

The world economy is showing signs of slowing growth and even possible recessions are being postulated by economists. The US-China trade tensions are adding to the thinking that there are more downside risks than upside ones for the Malaysian economy which is an open economy and thus susceptible to negative trade winds. The Malaysian Economy is expected to grow at a rate of between 4.4 to 4.7 percent in 2020. There may be a slight decline to that expected in 2019 which has just four more months left. The crude oil price has not shown a rising trend in recent months and this may make its contribution to the nation's coffers not much changed from its 2019 contribution through dividends from national petroleum agency.

The 2020 theme is basically to share prosperity among the multiracial communities of Malaysia and aim for sustainability and inclusive growth and target for a high-income economy. The economic risks envisaged for the year ahead may be prompting the government to consider a slightly more expansionary budget that would reverse the 2019's belt tightening initiatives. More assistance may be provided to the lower income groups i.e. those in the B40 group. More projects which were frozen may be allowed to thaw and continue at renegotiated terms. Meeting targeted reductions in the budget deficit may be delayed for the time being in view of the probable negative risks in the coming year. Government may promote more foreign direct investments as companies may be desiring to relocate from China amidst the tightening trade relationships with the USA. The more expansionary budget if it materializes may contribute towards multiplier effects that may sustain the GDP growth at expected levels or move it even higher.

An opportunity is provided in this forum for participants to gain insights into the thought processes and rationales that have gone into the formulation of 'shared prosperity and inclusive growth' Budget 2020 under the now more seasoned leadership of the Pakatan Harapan Government. Expert economists and other economic commentators aside from the government's own team of highly knowledgeable presenters will be available to enlighten participants on the budget and its implications for them and the economy.



Registration:

1.00-2.00pm

Welcoming Speech:

2.00-2.10pm

Prof. Dr. Yeah Kim Leng

Deputy President, MEA

Keynote Address:

2.10-3.00pm

En Johan Mahmood Merican

*Director National Budget Office
Ministry of Finance*

Dialogue Session:

3.00-4.30pm

Dr. Jorah Ramlan

Vice President, MEA

Moderator

Panelists:

1. Dr. Veerinderjeet Singh

Axcelasia Taxand Sdn Bhd

2. Shakira Teh Sharifuddin

Country Economist,

World Bank Group

3. Prof. Dr. Edmund Terence Gomez

Dean, Faculty of Economics &

Administration, UM

4. Prof. Dr. Mansor H. Ibrahim

Deputy President Academic

& Dean, INCEIF

5. Ravindran Navaratnam

Managing Director,

Sage 3 Capital Sdn Bhd

Q&A

4.30-5.15pm

5.15pm Refreshment

For enquiries contact Ms Normala/Nancee Tel: 603-79560075 mgt@pem.org.my