From the Desk of the Chief Economist



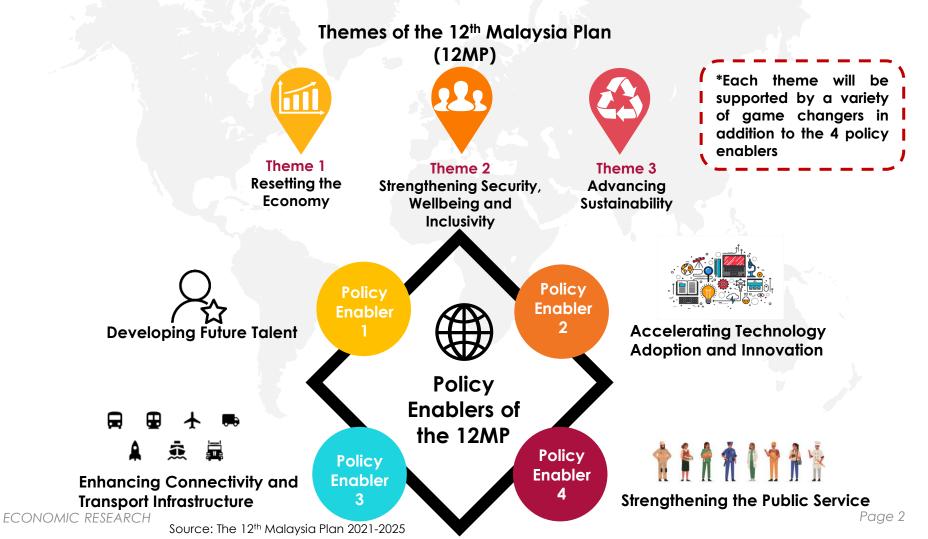
THE 12TH MALAYSIA PLAN: A PROSPEROUS, INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE MALAYSIA

27 SEPTEMBER 2021 ECONOMIC RESEARCH

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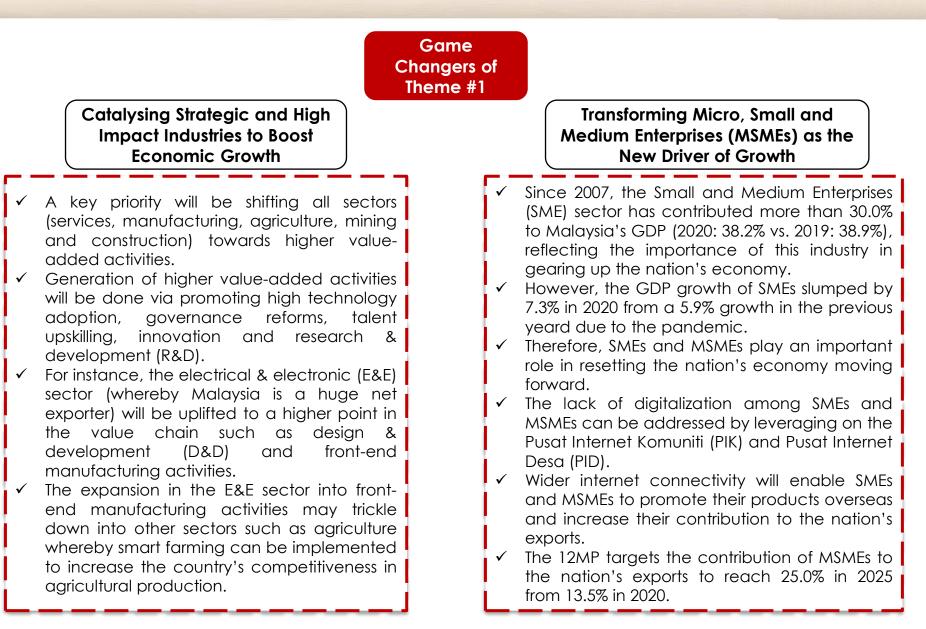
THE 12TH MP (2021-2025)- A PROSPEROUS, INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE MALAYSIA

- BANK
- Prime Minister Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has unveiled the 12th Malaysian Plan 2021 2025 (12MP) today. The 12MP has outlined the government's strategy to rebuild and propel the nation after being impacted by the pandemic.
- The articulation of such document sheds more lights into government policy especially in the context of limited fiscal space after a slew of stimulus packages. This would be critical as the external environment has been increasingly challenging against a backdrop of the uncertainty from the virus and a normalizing global monetary policy.



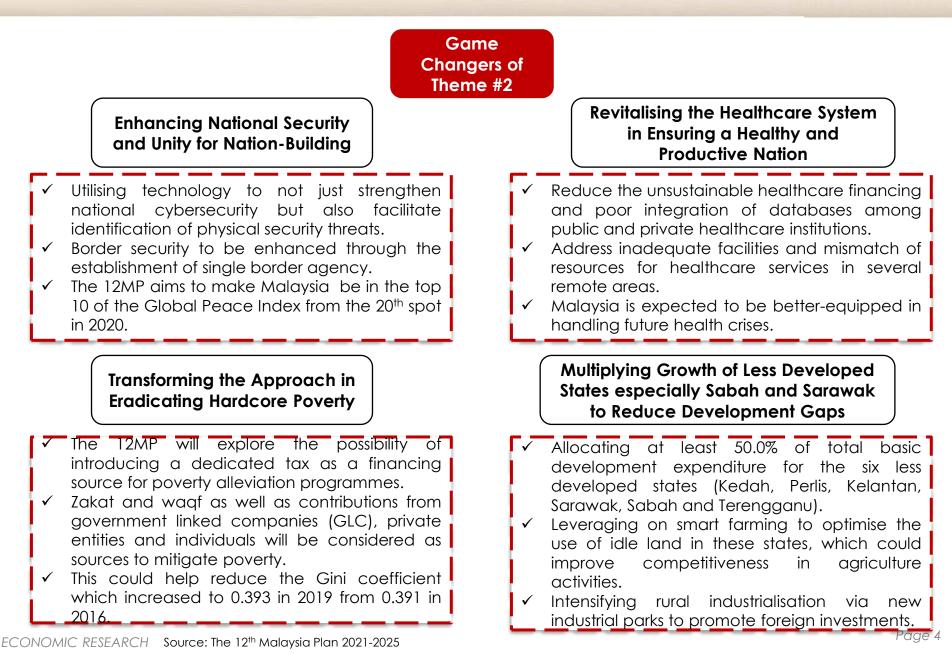
THEME #1: RESETTING THE ECONOMY





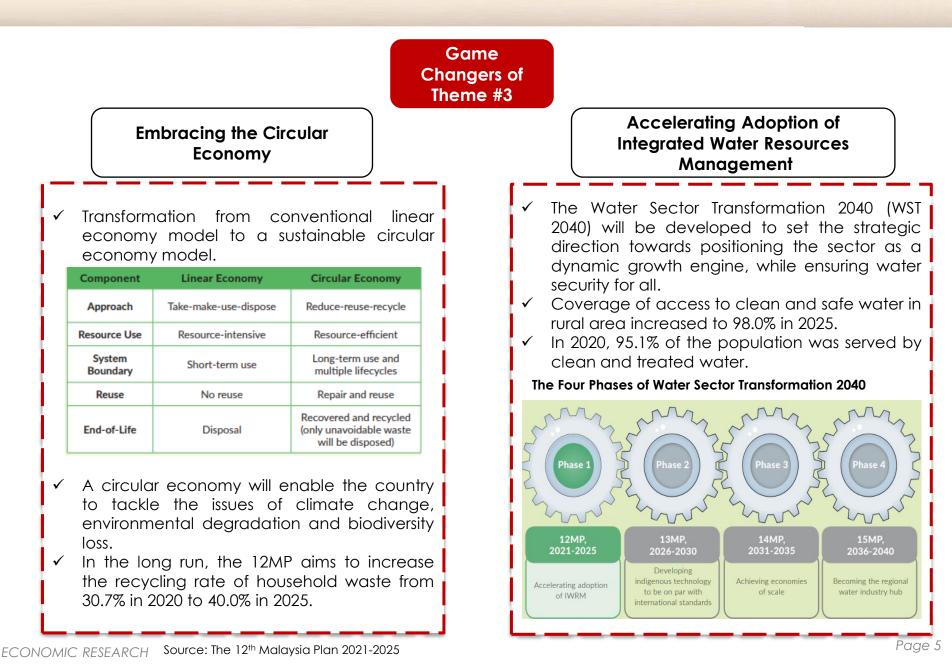
THEME #2: STRENGTHENING SECURITY, WELLBEING AND INCLUSIVITY





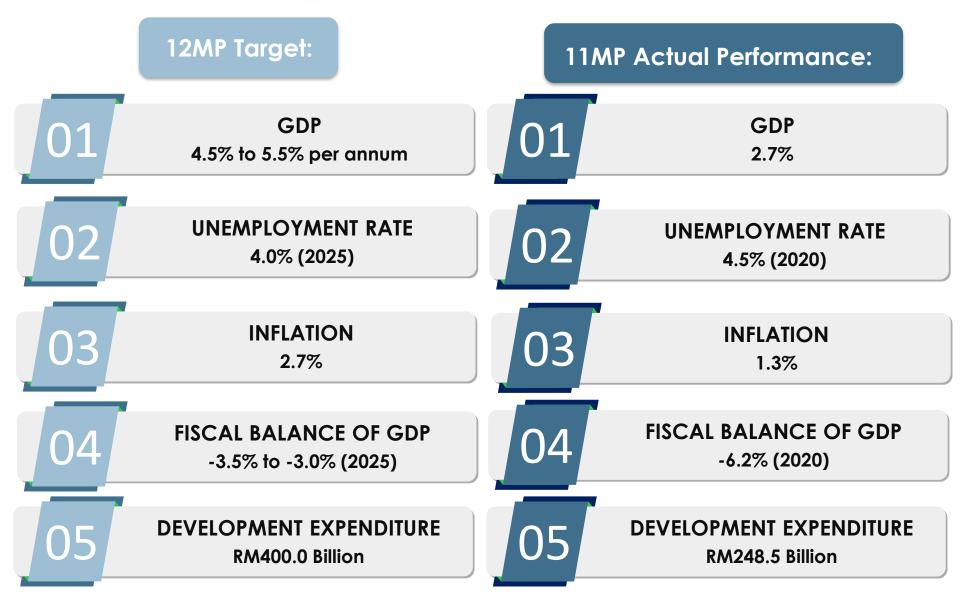
THEME #3: ADVANCING SUSTAINBILITY



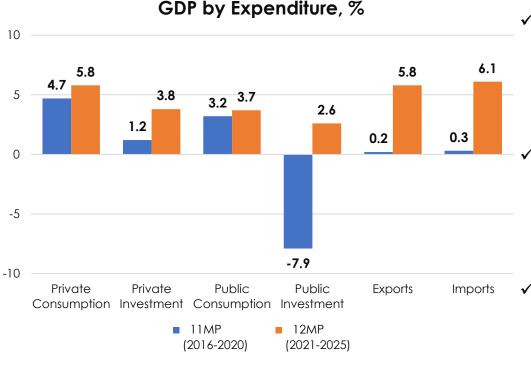


OVERVIEW OF MACROECONOMIC TARGETS





GDP GROWTH FORECAST – DEMAND SIDE



Source: The 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025

- ✓ Malaysian economy growth is expected to range between 4.5% and 5.5% during 2021-2025 period. This is higher as compared to the previous Eleventh Plan performance (11MP), whereby the economy expanded by 2.7%.
- Private sector economy remains the anchor of growth with Private Consumption is anticipated to expand by 5.8% during 2021-2025, supported by higher household income and stable labour market conditions.
- ✓ Similarly, Private Investment is estimated to grow by 3.8% with the National Investment Aspirations (NIA) will be the basis for comprehensive reforms in all investment-linked initiatives and policies.
- ✓ With regard to the public sector, Public Consumption is targeted to increase by 3.7% corresponding to the measures taken in reducing the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and rejuvenating the economy.
- ✓ Meanwhile, Public Investment is forecasted to rebound by 2.6%, predominantly driven by the Federal Government development expenditure particularly for infrastructure and transport projects, as well as capital spending of non-financial public corporations (NFPCs).
- ✓ Apart from that, Exports are expected to grow by 5.8%, mainly underpinned by higher manufactured goods sales.





Gross Domestic Product by Expenditure Category, 2015-2025 (at constant 2015 prices)

	RM million							Average Annual Growth Rate, %	
Item	Actual						Target	Eleventh Plan	Twelfth Plan Target
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025	2016-2020	2021-2025
Private Expenditure	833,249	879,237	944,296	1,011,397	1,074,788	1,010,086	1,314,667	3.9	5.4
Consumption	635,099	672,260	718,702	776,054	835,711	799,447	1,060,487	4.7	5.8
Investment	198,150	206,977	225,594	235,343	239,077	210,639	254,180	1.2	3.8
Public Expenditure	260,295	260,853	269,949	270,279	262,584	250,334	295,732	-0.8	3.4
Consumption	154,021	155,640	164,450	170,030	173,080	179,913	215,514	3.2	3.7
Investment	106,274	105,213	105,499	100,249	89,504	70,421	80,218	-7.9	2.6
Net Export	88,592	88,925	85,493	90,768	100,925	87,806	102,628	-0.2	3.1
Exports of Goods and Services	817,370	828,155	900,064	917,462	907,877	827,086	1,098,231	0.2	5.8
Imports of Goods and Services	728,778	739,230	814,571	826,694	806,952	739,280	995,603	0.3	6.1
Gross Domestic Product	1,176,941	1,229,312	1,300,769	1,363,766	1,424,310	1,343,880	1,712,921	2.7	4.5 ~ 5.5

Note: The added total may differ due to rounding.

Source: Department of Statistics Malaysia and Economic Planning Unit

Source: The 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025

Gross Domestic Product by Kind of Economic Activity, 2015-2025 (at constant 2015 prices)

at constant 20	To build								
			Average Annual Growth Rate, %						
Item	Actual							Eleventh Plan	Twelfth Plan Target
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025	2016-2020	2021-2025
Agriculture	97,539	93,977	99,509	99,637	101,580	99,367	119,594	0.4	3.8
Mining and Quarrying	103,059	105,368	105,838	103,557	102,897	91,993	104,525	-2.2	2.6
Manufacturing	262,379	273,899	290,464	304,843	316,283	307,924	406,072	3.3	5.7
Construction	55,382	59,508	63,522	66,194	66,453	53,556	65,709	-0.7	4.2
Services	643,883	680,561	723,361	772,990	820,857	775,717	999,389	3.8	5.2
Electricity, Gas and Water	31,710	33,412	34,396	36,109	38,297	37,802	47,684	3.6	4.8
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Food & Beverage and Accommodation	220,242	234,538	251,632	272,668	292,593	264,683	337,842	3.7	5.0
Transport, Storage and Communications	104,360	111,764	120,325	129,318	137,958	131,280	185,860	4.7	7.2
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate and Business Services	130,065	135,688	143,663	152,834	162,196	154,253	203,165	3.5	5.7
Government Services	99,783	104,620	109,694	114,891	118,901	124,229	148,902	4.5	3.7
Other Services	57,724	60,538	63,649	67,170	70,912	63,469	75,936	1.9	3.7
Plus : Import Duties	14,699	16,000	18,076	16,546	16,240	15,324	17,631	0.8	2.8
Gross Domestic Product	1,176,941	1,229,312	1,300,769	1,363,766	1,424,310	1,343,880	1,712,921	2.7	4.5 ~ 5.5

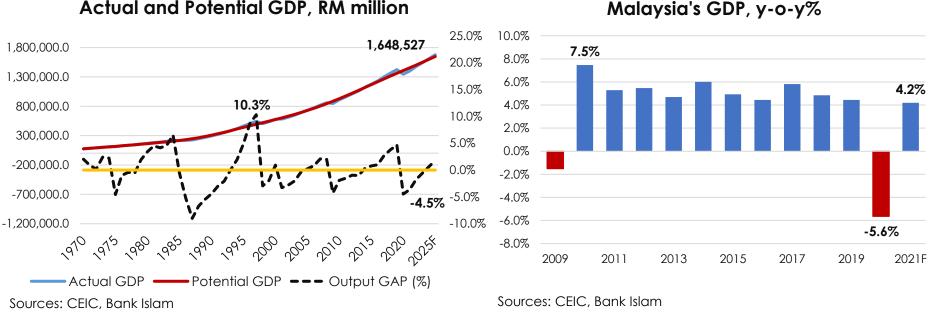
Note: The added total may differ due to rounding.

Source: The 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025

GDP GROWTH FORECAST – SUPPLY SIDE (CONT'D)

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- ✓ The manufacturing sector is expected to record the largest average annual growth among sectors at 5.7% during the 12MP period. As mentioned in Theme #1: Resetting the economy, the manufacturing of E&E products will be transformed into higher-value added activities given Malaysia's position as a huge net exporter of semiconductor components. Emphasis will also be given to capitalise on the benefits of disruptive technologies in gearing up for the National Fourth Industrial Revolution.
- ✓ Another important sector would be the services sector which is forecasted to expand by 5.2% on average per annum during the 12MP period.
- ✓ Under the services sector, the transport, communication and storage sub-sector is projected to experience the highest average annual growth of 7.2% from 2021 to 2025. The growth in the sub-sector is underpinned by the proliferation in online business activities which is bound to grow in line with the higher number of 5G subscriptions which is expected to reach 2.1 million people in 2025 from 0.6 million in 2021.
- ✓ Meanwhile, the construction sector will likely see an average annual growth of 4.2% during the 2021 to 2025 period, driven by the civil engineering and residential buildings subsectors. More affordable housing will be developed in strategic locations. A total of 500,000 affordable homes will be built, which will be supported by several initiatives, such as Rumah Mesra Rakyat, Residensi Wilayah and Program Perumahan Rakyat.
- ✓ The average annual growth rate of the agriculture sector may reach 3.8% during the 12MP period via the expedition of smart farming which could increase the economies of scale in the sector.
- ✓ The mining and quarrying sector is the sector that is expcted to record the lowest average annual growth during the 12MP period as the production of crude oil and condensate is expected to moderate due to exploration of hydrocarbon resources activities in challenging areas such as deep-water and marginal fields.

ALLEVIATING POTENTIAL GROWTH



Actual and Potential GDP, RM million

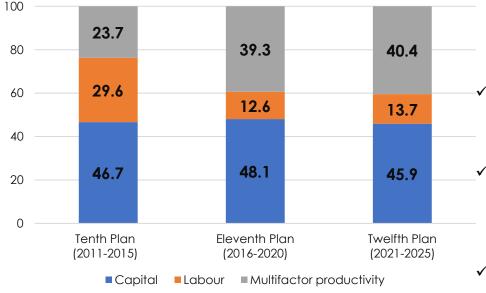
We anticipate the Malaysian economy to rebound by 4.2% this year after falling into recession in 2020 (2020 GDP: -5.6%). However, we opine that the country's output gap (the difference between actual and potential GDP) could be around -4.0% this year, reflecting that the available resources such as labour, capital and multifactor productivity still have not been fully utilized following the impacts from the pandemic.

- \checkmark To recall, the Covid-19 crisis has severely affected Malaysia's economic performance last year. Consequently, Malaysia experienced negative output gap (actual output below its potential level) as contraction in both domestic (2020: -5.8% vs. 2019: 4.3%) and external (2020: -13.0% vs. 2019: 11.2%) demand caused actual output to fall below the productive capacity of the economy.
- Be that as it may, based on our calculation, output gap would narrow within two years as the economy is \checkmark expected to recover from the Covid-19 pandemic.



ALLEVIATING POTENTIAL GROWTH (CONT'D)

- ✓ Previously, Malaysia's economic growth was primarily driven by the traditional factor inputs of labour and capital, contributing an average of 68.5% between 2011 and 2020 to the economy.
- ✓ However, too depending on these factors would affect the pace of economic reform especially during this pandemic time.
- ✓ As such, it is important to note that the adoption of advanced technologies and automation by industry could further accelerate economic growth moving forward. Following this, the multifactor productivity (MFP) plays a vital role in developing Malaysia's economic performances in the next following years.
- ✓ Thus far, the MFP contribution to GDP growth is expected to reach 40.4% during 2021-2025, higher than the previous MPs between 2011 and 2020 period.



Factors of Production, Share to Growth (%)

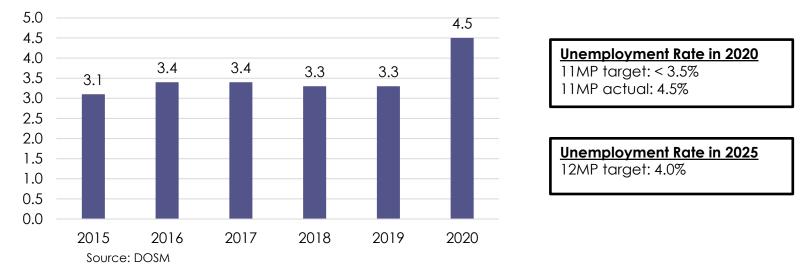
Source: The 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025, Mid-term Review of 11th Malaysia Plan

- ✓ As the potential output is projected to be around 4.0% to 5.0% during the 12MP, we believe unlocking the potential productivity could further drive the actual economic performance. This can be done via embarking digital transformation and technology advancement.
- Therefore, the government need to support and embrace more on digital technology to ensure higher efficiency in the production process especially at the companies' level.
- ✓ Apart from that, efforts to boost competitiveness among businesses should be continued through enhanced collaboration between the public and private sectors to uplift productivity at the national level.
- All in all, with the improving state of technology, businesses are able to increase total output, which in turn could lead to greater economic development.

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MALAYSIA'S LABOUR MARKET PROSPECTS

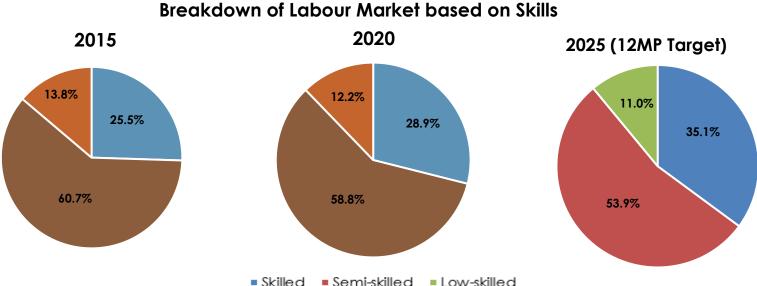




Unemployment Rate, %

- ✓ During the first four years of the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP) (2016 2019), Malaysia manage to remain at full employment though the unemployment rate increased from 3.1% in 2015 to 3.3% in 2019.
- ✓ Nevertheless, the unemployment rate spiked to 4.5% in 2020, missing the 11MP's target of below than 3.5%, mainly underpinned by the Covid-19 pandemic situation that struck the country in early of the said year, and continued surged to its peak at 5.3% in May, before moderating to 4.6% in September.
- ✓ With more transitions of states into remaining phases of National Recovery Plan (NRP), as well as subsequent Covid-19 restrictions announcement which allow economic sectors to reopen, the labour market is expected to regain its full employment under the 12MP. As such, it is now targeting the unemployment rate to reach 4.0% in 2025.

MALAYSIA'S LABOUR MARKET – (CONT'D)

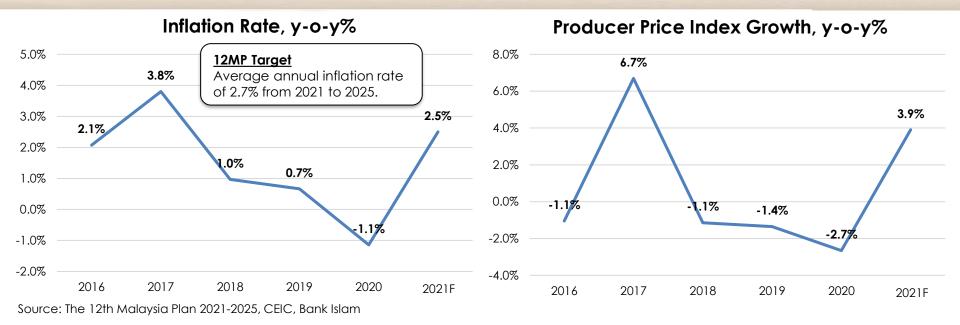


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Source: DOSM, The 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025

- Underemployment issues will also be addressed to continue enhancing graduates employability via proper programmes that could help to equip them with the right attitude, skills and knowledge to perform as high potential talent.
- ✓ Though the skilled jobs has increased by 28.9% in 2020 as compared to 25.5% in 2015, the figure is still way below than the 11MP's target of 30.1%.
- ✓ The reason could be due to the jobs filled has remained visibly in semi-skilled whereby more than half with a share of 58.8% in the said year (2015: 60.7%).
- ✓ As such, the 12MP has undertaken the plan under its five-year plan to accelerate automation, as well as reduce the number of low-skilled foreign workers via locals employment.
- Most importantly, it is important for both education and labour market policies to work in tandem to \checkmark ensure that the issue of labour demands can be addressed appropriately. Otherwise, underemployment will be a long-standing issue of contention in Malaysia, resulting in our graduates taking up jobs below their skill levels or worse, moving to other countries in search for better quality jobs, leading to brain drain.
- \checkmark Looking ahead, 12MP is targeting the rate of employment skills to grow accordingly by 35.1% (skilled), 53.9% (semi-skilled) and 11.0% (low-skilled) in the respective skills. Page 14

MALAYSIA'S INFLATIONARY PROSPECTS



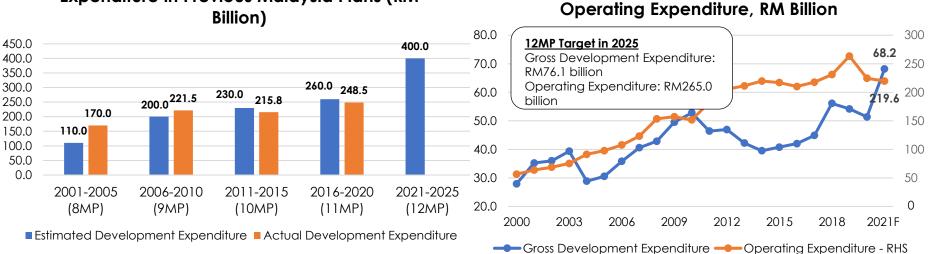
- ✓ Inflation is expected to average at 2.7% during the 12MP period (2021 to 2025) compared to the average inflation rate of 1.3% during the 11MP (2016 to 2020) in light of better economic prospects.
- ✓ On further scrutiny, the rebound in the global and domestic economy will be reflected by the pent-up demand being unleashed especially in sectors that were not fully opened during the pandemic such as tourism and leisure.
- ✓ A broad-based pickup in economic activities will also lead to higher domestic and export orders of manufacturers which may continue to strain supply chain ecosystems. Indirectly, manufacturers will require a heavy supply of raw materials or components which are hard to source amid a global shortage just like what we see in the E&E industry.
- ✓ With producer prices expected to rise as a result of this, there is also a high possibility that manufacturers will pass on the cost to customers knowing that monetary propensity to consume will be higher.
- ✓ Henceforth, an expected average annual inflation rate of 2.7% during the 12MP is something within reach given the abovementioned circumstances.



MALAYSIA'S DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE PLANS



Gross Development Expenditure vs.



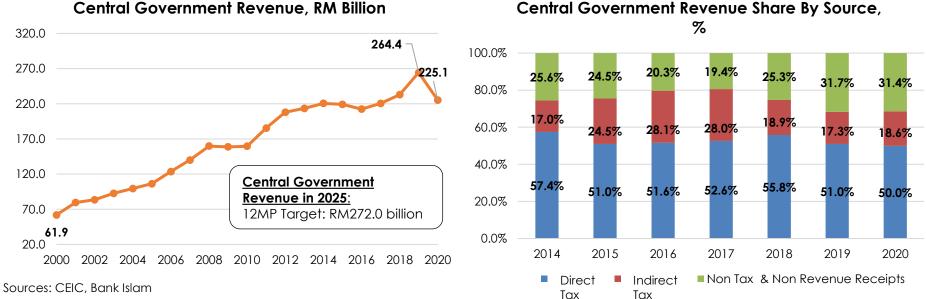
Estimated vs. Actual Gross Development Expenditure in Previous Malaysia Plans (RM Billion)

Sources: The 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025, CEIC

- ✓ Given the need for the nation to emerge stronger after being struck by the Covid-19 pandemic, amount estimated for gross development expenditure under the 12MP will be the highest in history at RM400.0 billion.
- ✓ The latest revised figure for gross development expenditure in 2021 stood at RM68.2 billion (previously RM69.0 billion) in the Ministry of Finance's 2022 pre-budget statement released on 31 August and is expected to reach RM76.1 billion in 2025.
- On further scrutiny, at least 50.0% of the total development expenditure will be allocated to six less developed states, namely Sabah, Sarawak, Kelantan, Terengganu, Kedah and Perlis, to ensure a more balanced regional growth and reduce development gaps. Most of the allocations will be channelled to improve connectivity and provide better access to basic infrastructure, amenities and services.
- ✓ Apart from that, rural areas will be further developed by intensifying industrialisation and diversifying economic activities through smart and cluster farming.
- ✓ In line with the growth in development expenditure, the latest revised operating expenditure of RM219.6 billion is projected to reach RM265.0 billion in 2025.

MALAYSIA'S REVENUE PROSPECTS

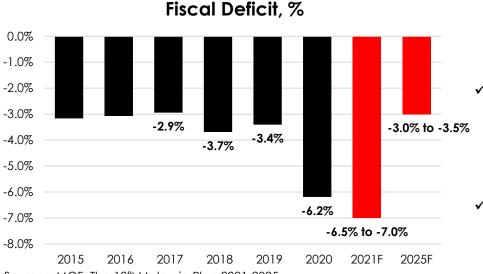
- At the same time, a larger expected development expenditure under the 12MP to spur economic growth will \checkmark warrant a broader revenue base.
- ✓ We observed that Malaysia's Central Government Revenue declined by 14.9% y-o-y to RM225.1 billion in 2020 from RM264.4 billion in 2019 due to the impact of the pandemic. The portion of central government revenue coming from direct taxes has also declined in 2020 at 50.0% (2019: 51.0%) compared to 55.8% in 2018 in the absence of the pandemic.
- Looking ahead, the government expects that the central government revenue will reach RM272.0 billion (11MP: RM225.1 billion) with the assumption of crude oil price to record USD53.6 per barrel during the 12MP period.
- There is also a high likelihood that revenue will be enhanced by exploring new sources, expanding the revenue base, \checkmark reviewing tax incentives, strengthening overall tax administration and adopting a medium term revenue strategy. Moreover, debates regarding new types of taxes such as capital gains tax on shares, wealth tax and Goods and Services Tax (GST) were in the spotlight as of late.
- Based on our back of envelope calculation, the government revenue would gain RM300.0 million for every rise in USD per barrel of crude oil price. Therefore, the firmer crude oil price would contribute to higher revenue moving forward.



Central Government Revenue Share By Source,



EXPANSIONARY FISCAL POLICY DURING EARLY OF 12MP TO REVITALISE THE ECONOMY

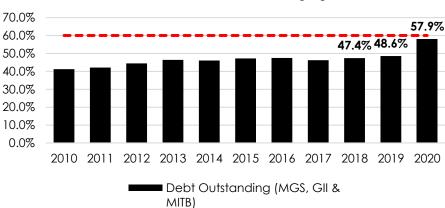


Sources: MOF, The 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025

- As for 2021, we foresee that the fiscal deficit for 2021 is likely to widen to 6.9% of GDP with overall balance of – RM107.8 billion amid the announcement of series stimulus packages.
- ✓ This was very much in line with the government's latest fiscal revision to a range of 6.5% to 7.0% from 6.0% projection made in May 2021 (1H2021: -7.7%), suggesting the government would remain on expansionary mode at least by end of this year.
- ✓ According to our estimation, current debt-to GDP ratio for MGS, GII and MITB was at 59.7%* of GDP at the end of 1H2021 which was higher compared to 57.9% in 2020.
- Therefore, we believe the government would be very mindful on its limited resources as it needs to juggle between promoting sustainable economic growth while keeping its finances in check.

11MP Fiscal Deficit11MP Actual FiscalTargetDeficit-3.0%-6.2%

- ✓ Looking at the fiscal side, the actual fiscal deficit for 11MP stood at 6.2% of GDP which was about double of initial target of 3.0% as the government undertaken the fiscal expansionary measures to spur the economy that severely hit by Covid-19 in 2020.
 - In the 12MP, the government is projecting the fiscal deficit to narrow between -3.0% and -3.5% of GDP in 2025 following a combination of factors such as introduction of medium-term budgeting and expenditure frameworks, as well as wider revenue base.



Sources: CEIC, The 12th Malaysia Plan 2021-2025 *nominal GDP is calculated based on the MOF's 2021 GDP Projection

Debt-to-GDP Ratio (%)



THE WAY WE SEE IT



- The government is cognizant of the need for integration among various sectors while it needs to balance out between nurturing a viable economic growth trajectory and maintaining its financial position at an optimal level.
- ✓ The movement of the E&E sector to a higher value chain could spur automation in sectors such as agriculture particularly foods and live animals that has been recording wider trade deficits since 1990 (2020: -RM21.7 billion vs. 1990: -RM1.1 billion). For instance, smart farming could accelerate the harvesting of agricultural goods in a more cost effective way and thus increase the self sustainability ratio of certain meat and vegetables such as mutton (9.6%) and ginger (18.9%) seen in 2020.
- Graduates from Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) courses could also stand a chance to collaborate with farmers to experiment technology related to smart farming that could indirectly mitigate the issue of unemployment among graduates.
- Apart from that, the fact that 12MP highlighted that waqf will be considered as a financing source for poverty alleviation programmes indicates the importance of Islamic Finance in shaping the socioeconomic development of the country. As an example, a national health endowment fund, particularly from waqf will be introduced as a measure to diversify sources of funding and create alternative financing for healthcare. More importantly, this will promote a wider practice of waqf among Islamic financial institutions including Bank Islam.
- ✓ In a nutshell, the GDP growth target ranging from 4.5% to 5.5% for the 12MP (2021 to 2025) is very much in line with our expectation given the expectation of more normalized growth towards 2025. The fiscal deficits targets ranging from -3.5% and -3.0% of GDP in 2025 indicates that the government will act to tighten its budgetary position gradually. Making a bang for the buck is the motto that will lie in the mind of policy makers moving forward especially after an excruciating period of the pandemic.

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