

Document:	WELCOME REMARK BY TAN SRI ABDUL WAHID OMAR, CHAIRMAN, BURSA MALAYSIA BERHAD
Event:	INVEST MALAYSIA 2021 (IMKL 1)
Date:	14 OCTOBER 2021
Time:	9.00 am - 9.10 am
Venue:	Virtual

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim,

Yang Amat Berhormat Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, Prime Minister of Malaysia,

Yang Berhormat Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali, Senior Minister and Minister of International Trade & Industry,

Yang Berhormat Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, Minister of Finance,

Yang Berhormat Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister in Prime Minister's Department (Economy)

Yang Berbahagia Datuk Syed Zaid Albar, Executive Chairman, Securities Commission Malaysia,

Yang Berbahagia Tan Sri Dato' Sri Zamzamzairani Mohd Isa, Chairman of Maybank,

Chairpersons, CEOs, Board members of Corporate Malaysia,

Distinguished Partners, Investors and Guests,

Members of the Media,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh and a very good morning.

1. Welcome to the 19th edition of Invest Malaysia 2021. This is the second consecutive year this conference of minds is held on a virtual basis. It is yet another example of how technology has become so indispensable to everyone - be they among the adults, the young and the young at heart too. Thank you for participating fully in this edition of our Capital Market Conversation.

2. We are indeed honoured to have our Prime Minister YAB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri bin Yaakob to deliver the opening keynote address. You will hear how the Prime Minister plans to not only address the economic challenges, but also shape the nation with an eye on the future as a high-income nation where every citizen has an equitable share.
3. The Prime Minister's keynote will then be followed by the Finance Minister YB Senator Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz, who will deliver a special address.
4. We will then continue with a fireside chat with YB Dato' Sri Mustapa bin Mohamed, Minister in Prime Minister's Department (Economy) – which I have the honour to moderate –exploring the opportunities and challenges in the 12th Malaysia Plan.
5. Thereafter, we will have a very special panel session on GLICs with the theme “Refreshed Mandate, Recharged Capabilities”, which will be moderated by our CEO Datuk Umar Swift.
6. This will be followed by a special keynote address by YB Senior Minister Dato' Seri Mohamed Azmin bin Ali, who will share Malaysia's progress in trade, attracting the right kind of investments and the developments of our trade agreements with the ASEAN and the world.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. It is fitting that the programme for today's session revolves around Economic Reform: the 12th Malaysia Plan, the transformation of Malaysia's GLICs, and the topic of resilience. It is not focused solely on the immediate challenges of our times, but the means by which we will create the building blocks to ensure we can succeed, sustainably, far into the future.
8. This global Covid-19 pandemic hits harder and faster than what our collective experience could predict – even when compared to the Asian Financial Crisis of 1997/98, the Global Financial Crisis of 2008, and the various resultant issues that have roiled the world in the last decade.
9. With more than 237 million cases and 4.8 million deaths worldwide as reported by the World Health Organisation (WHO) to date, it is causing untold suffering globally. Malaysia alone has recorded 2.3 million cases and more than 27,000 deaths as of yesterday 13 October 2021. Global economy contracted by 3.2% in 2020 with the UK suffering from the steepest contraction of 9.8%. Malaysia obviously was not spared with our GDP contracting by 5.6% in 2020. Unemployment rate rose to 4.8% in July 2021 before moderating to 4.6% (748,800 unemployed persons) in August 2021. Median monthly household income declined by 11.3% from RM5,873 in 2019 to RM5,209 in 2020. Poverty incidence rate increased from 5.6% in 2019 to 8.4% in 2020 meaning some 639,800 households are now living below the poverty line income of RM2,208 per month.

10. In order to deal with this pandemic, Government has announced eight economic stimulus packages totalling RM530 billion from PRIHATIN in March 2020 to PEMULIH in June 2021 including fiscal injection amounting to RM83 billion. With the benefit of various stimulus packages and almost full reopening of the economy effective 11 October 2021, this should provide enough assurance for the economy to record a full year 2021 growth of up to 4.0%, at the top end of BNM's official forecast. Barring unforeseen circumstances, I am hopeful the 2022 GDP growth of 6.0% as forecast by Maybank will be realised. This will lead to lower unemployment rate and improved household income and wellbeing in 2022 and beyond in line with the 12th Malaysia Plan targets.
11. One of the major enablers to our economic recovery is obviously our vaccination program which deserves special mention. Although factors beyond our control had delayed the vaccination rollout to February 2021, we have come very far since then. With full vaccination rate of 66.1% of total population and 90.6% of the adult population as at 12 October 2021, Malaysia's vaccination program is one of the most successful programs in the world. Credit goes to all frontliners and everyone involved in the program.
12. What did we learn from past crises, and what are we learning now? The experience from past crises thrust Malaysia towards a robust strengthening and future-proofing of our banking and financial systems. It also led to a rigorous transformation programme that saw our GLCs and GLICs, improving their performance by leaps and bounds. Similarly from the depth of this pandemic, Malaysia has already begun planning and executing the next set of transformations, which you will learn about over the course of this conference.

Ladies and gentlemen,

13. We have observed how the myriad of measures taken to contain the pandemic have forced a behavioural and a mindset shift – with many people rethinking how they work, how they live, and what the true worth and meaning of modern life is.
14. I see this mindset shift as an important ally we will need to take on the world's next great challenge which is climate change. A stress test conducted by the Swiss RE Institute predicts that the world economy could shrink by 18% in the next 30 years if no climate change mitigation actions are taken. Failure to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals 2030 will negatively affect billions worldwide, damaging livelihoods, exacerbating poverty and the spread of diseases.
15. During the tabling of the 12th Malaysia Plan in Parliament on 27 September 2021, the Prime Minister reiterated Malaysia's intention to reduce greenhouse gas emission intensity by 45% (based on GDP) by 2030. The Prime Minister also announced Malaysia's aspirations to achieve net zero GHG emissions as early as 2050. This is subject to the outcome of the Long Term Low Emissions Development Strategy (LT-LEDS) study to be completed by end 2022.

16. The Prime Minister has also announced following the conclusion of the Malaysian Climate Action Council meeting on 11 October 2021 the proposed implementation of a Domestic Emissions Trading Scheme (DETS) by the Ministry of Environment and Water (KASA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance and Bursa Malaysia. This Scheme involves the development of a single platform for domestic carbon credit transactions. DETS has the potential to attract low carbon emission investments, enhance the competitiveness of Malaysian made products internationally and generate sustainable financial resources for Malaysian entities. We at Bursa Malaysia are grateful for the trust placed upon us and look forward to working closely with KASA, MOF and other agencies towards the development of the DETS.

Ladies and gentlemen,

17. Bursa Malaysia and the capital market had a great year in 2020. Business volume as measured by Average Daily Trading Value (ADV) doubled from RM1.9 billion to RM4.2 billion. FBM KLCI increased 2.4% to 1,627 points, the second best performing market in the region. Business momentum continued into the first half of 2021 with ADV increasing to RM4.4 billion. But with worsening Covid-19 cases and prolonged movement control orders, FBM KLCI declined by 5.8% to 1,533 points as at 30 June 2021, making our market one of the least performing markets in the region for the first half of 2021.
18. The good news is that the market has recovered significantly since then. Foreign funds turned net buyers for the first time since June 2019 with net inflow of RM1.1 billion in August 2021 and RM0.8 billion in September 2021. The FBM KLCI was up 4.4% since end June 2021 to close at 1,600 points yesterday 13 October 2021. The improved sentiments were partly supported by resilient corporate profits for the second quarter of 2021 which increased 113% YoY and 3% QoQ based on Maybank's research universe. With the reopening of the economy in line with the National Recovery Plan, and with the business like approach and constructive attitude of the Government, the business community and the people, the 'Keluarga Malaysia' if you like, I am hopeful that Malaysia will rebound and build back better and hopefully greener.

Closing

Ladies and Gentlemen,

19. Before I end my remarks, I would like to extend our sincere thanks and gratitude to our organising partner Maybank Investment Bank, and the Bursa Malaysia team for making today's event possible. Thank you to everyone for making the time to join us in this capital market conversation. I wish you an enlightening, enriching time over the course of this conference.
20. With that, it gives me great pleasure to invite our Prime Minister YAB Dato' Sri Ismail Sabri Yaakob to deliver the opening keynote address.

Thank you.

Wabillahi taufiq wal hidayah wassalamualaikum warahmatullahiwabarakatuh.