

press release

Malaysia recalibrates for sustainable growth, fiscal discipline and its people's prosperity

Finance Minister reinforces growth and fiscal policies in landmark meet with investors and rating agencies



KUALA LUMPUR, 18 November 2018 – The Ministry of Finance held a roadshow in Singapore and Hong Kong recently to proactively engage ratings agencies and foreign institutional investors to articulate the Pakatan Harapan government's rationale for the fiscal and development measures put up in Budget 2019, aimed at building a solid foundation for *A Resurgent Malaysia*, leading into a *Dynamic Economy* for a *Prosperous Society*. Led by Minister of Finance Lim Guan Eng, the roadshow was organised in partnership with the CIMB Group, Maybank and Standard Chartered Bank.

The 2019 Budget was specially curated to demonstrate the government's commitment to reinstate Malaysia's position as a nation that is politically, economically and socially progressive, premised on transparency, accountability and good governance.

Most investors and ratings agencies felt that the 2019 Budget presents a good balance between fiscal discipline and sustainable, broad-based growth strategy for the coming year, and yet with a multi-year perspective on fiscal policies. On concerns of the possibility that Malaysia's sovereign rating could be downgraded due to its bigger deficit, Lim stressed that the Government is confident of cutting its fiscal deficit from 3.7% in 2018, to 3.4% in 2019, 3.0% by 2020, and 2.8% in 2021. The consolidation exercise would help Malaysia keep its credit ratings at A- without sacrificing economic growth and more importantly, the wellbeing of the people.

Minister of Finance Lim Guan Eng said, "We must be cognizant that systemic reforms will require time to implement and some parts of the economy may be in for a rough ride but with strong fiscal management and institutional reforms, Malaysia will continue to be on a stronger and more sustainable growth path.

"We are committed to ensure that Malaysia continues to remain business and investment friendly. Given our wealth of natural resources, sound economic fundamentals, a strong professional workforce and highly sophisticated capital markets, the time to invest in Malaysia is now. I am excited for what the New Malaysia's continuing growth story holds for the people, as well as for current and future investors," he added.

Lim also reinforced the collaboration between banks and the government, lending weight to the government's policy direction for a stronger public-private partnership to boost economic growth, ensure a robust financial industry and instil investor confidence.

----- ends -----

For more information, please contact:

Suria Zainal

Head, Group Corporate
Communications
CIMB Group Holdings Berhad
Tel: +603-2261 0638
Email: Suriawati.zainal@cimb.com

Ann Lim

Regional Head, Strategic
Communications
Maybank Investment Bank
Tel: +603 2059 1526
Email: ann.lim@maybank-ib.com

Geraldine Tan

Head, Corporate Communications & CCIB
Marketing
Standard Chartered Malaysia
Tel: +603-2117 7821
Email: Geraldine.Tan@sc.com

Note to Editors

About CIMB Group

CIMB Group is one of ASEAN's leading universal banking groups and is Malaysia's second largest financial services provider, by assets. It offers consumer banking, commercial banking, investment banking, Islamic banking and asset management products and services. Headquartered in Kuala Lumpur, the Group is now present in 9 out of 10 ASEAN nations (Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Cambodia, Brunei, Vietnam, Myanmar and Laos). Beyond ASEAN, the Group has market presence in China, Hong Kong, India, Sri Lanka, Korea, the US and UK.

CIMB Group has the most extensive retail branch network in ASEAN of around 800 branches as at 30 September 2018. CIMB Group's investment banking arm is also one of the largest Asia Pacific-based investment banks, offering amongst the most comprehensive research coverage around 700 stocks in the region.

CIMB Group operates its business through three main brand entities, CIMB Bank, CIMB Investment Bank and CIMB Islamic. CIMB Group is also the 92.5% shareholder of Bank CIMB Niaga in Indonesia, and 94.1% shareholder of CIMB Thai in Thailand.

CIMB Group is listed on Bursa Malaysia via CIMB Group Holdings Berhad. It had a market capitalisation of approximately RM 56.3 billion as at 30 September 2018. The Group has around 36,000 employees located in 15 countries.

Maybank Investment Bank

Maybank Investment Bank Berhad ("Maybank IB") is Malaysia's leading investment bank. It has been in operation for more than 40 years and offers a suite of financial solutions, which include debt advisory and arrangement via bonds/sukuk, project financing, leveraged financing and loan syndication, corporate finance, equity capital markets, merger and acquisition advisory, sector advisory, strategic advisory, equities derivatives, retail and institutional securities broking and research. Known globally as Maybank Kim Eng, it has presence in 11 countries namely Malaysia, Singapore, Hong Kong, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, India, Vietnam, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain and the United States of America.

Maybank Kim Eng is the fully-owned investment banking arm of Maybank, one of Asia's leading banking groups and South East Asia's fourth largest bank by assets. The Maybank Group has an international network of over 2,200 offices in Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Brunei Darussalam, Vietnam, Cambodia, Thailand, People's Republic of China, Bahrain, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, Laos, Pakistan, India, Saudi Arabia, Great Britain and the United States of America. The Group offers an extensive range of products and services, which includes consumer and corporate banking, investment banking, Islamic banking, stock broking, insurance and takaful and asset management. It has over 43,000 employees worldwide.

Standard Chartered Malaysia

Standard Chartered Bank, a member of the Standard Chartered Group was established in Malaysia in 1875 and incorporated as Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia Berhad in 1984. As Malaysia's first bank, Standard Chartered leads the way through product innovation, consistent and strong growth performance and sustainability initiatives. The Bank provides a comprehensive range of financial products and services to corporates, institutions, small and medium-sized enterprises and individuals through its network of branches across Malaysia.

In 2001, Standard Chartered PLC established its second global technology & operations centre, Standard Chartered Global Business Services (formerly Scope International) in Malaysia – the first international bank to do so in the country. It provides software development, banking operations, IT support services and customer service capabilities to the Bank in up to 70 countries. It now houses the biggest software development company in the country, International Software Centre Malaysia (ISCM) and has a total workforce of more than 4,500 people. Price Solutions Sdn Bhd, a wholly owned subsidiary of Standard Chartered PLC is also located in Malaysia. The company promotes and markets Standard Chartered's financial products in Malaysia through a network of direct sales agents. Standard Chartered Saadiq Berhad (Saadiq), Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia's Islamic Banking subsidiary was established in November 2008. It offers a full suite of Syariah-compliant products and services to individuals and corporates through its dedicated branches.

Standard Chartered employs over 7,000 employees in all its Malaysian operations.