



## **MEDIA STATEMENT**

### **MALAYSIA REJOINS TOP 20 ECONOMIES IN WORLD BANK'S DOING BUSINESS 2019 REPORT**

1. The World Bank Doing Business 2019 Report has ranked Malaysia at the 15<sup>th</sup> position among 190 economies worldwide which is a significant improvement compared to Malaysia's 24<sup>th</sup> ranking in the previous year.
2. The Doing Business Report ranks economies based on their business regulations and the ease of doing business. The indicator sets evaluated are Starting A Business, Dealing with Construction Permits, Getting Electricity, Registering Property, Getting Credit, Protecting Minority Investors, Paying Taxes, Trading Across Borders, Enforcing Contracts, and Resolving Insolvency.
3. PEMUDAH (Pasukan Petugas Khas Pemudahcara Perniagaan) initiates and drives regulatory reforms and improvements within the Doing Business indicator areas in Malaysia. It is a Special Task Force to facilitate business with its members comprising of senior government officials and private sector business leaders. This public and private sector collaboration pursues initiatives through focus groups and task forces to resolve regulatory and service delivery issues and also introduces reforms and improvements so as to facilitate business as well as to increase competitiveness and productivity.
4. The new PEMUDAH Co-Chairs which are YB Tuan Lim Guan Eng, the Minister of Finance, and YB Datuk Darell Leiking, the Minister of International Trade and Industry show the importance that the Government places on its role in accelerating regulatory reforms to improve business competitiveness. Moving forward, the structure will be strengthened to better address issues at the policy and execution levels. The membership is also being reviewed to bring greater depth of experience and more innovativeness to problem-solving and the implementation and monitoring of regulatory reforms.



5. Malaysia's 15<sup>th</sup> ranking in the Doing Business 2019 Report is due to the World Bank having recognised the numerous regulatory reforms and improvements that were implemented by the Government. Malaysia's better performance in the Doing Business Report is due to several factors. The guidance from the PEMUDAH leadership had seen regulatory reforms and improvements implemented by the focus groups with stakeholders' support. The World Bank Group Global Knowledge and Research Hub based in Kuala Lumpur and the World Bank Doing Business team have rendered assistance in analysing Malaysia's performance in the Doing Business reports and working towards improvements.
6. The Doing Business report covers respondents through case study evaluations in the 10 areas involving businesses in the capital city of Kuala Lumpur. Notwithstanding this, in the area of Dealing With Construction Permits, PEMUDAH and Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) as its secretariat, with assistance from key industry associations, have for the past 5 years extended the improvement initiatives to all states and major local councils. Going forward, efforts will be made to include other Doing Business areas.
7. The focus and direction of reform initiatives are on the right track as reflected by Malaysia's much improved Doing Business ranking. One of these initiatives involves the follow-through action being taken based on the Doing Business reform recommendations that the World Bank Group had in June 2018 specifically presented for Malaysia.
8. The Government, through PEMUDAH, will undertake more reform initiatives to further enhance the ease of doing business of a new Malaysia that prospers through business competitiveness.

**YB Datuk Darell Leiking**  
**Minister of International Trade and Industry**  
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**MINISTRY OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY**

**About MITI:**

MITI is the key driver in making Malaysia the preferred destination for quality investments and enhancing the nation's rising status as a globally competitive trading nation. Its objectives and roles are oriented towards ensuring Malaysia's rapid economic development and help achieve the country's stated goal of becoming a developed nation by 2020 .

**Media enquiries**

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