

## **Keynote 2-Leader in Action**

What a year it has been for us and the world. We were not warned either last year about how COVID-19 would change our vision 2020 altogether. The economy and the people have faced and are still facing many tough challenges brought on by the COVID-19 virus pandemic. We all have had to adapt to the New Normal in our daily lives and in doing business.

Some positives have nevertheless emerged from the pandemic experience. Digitalization has been added attention and impetus to drive productivity in public and private sector and that helps in reinjecting economic growth. No doubt it takes time, as any transformation process, it takes leadership, perseverance, strategies that may work. Thus, Go B.I.G with Digital is crucial to obtain that Breakthrough in our efficiency, with Integrity and force of Good.

According to SME Association Malaysia, up to one-quarter of Malaysia's small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are at risk of closure over the next few months because of the Covid-19 pandemic. Although 32,000 SMEs have closed down, businesses which survive through such challenges by being innovative and flexible will emerge stronger.

Budget 2021 has projected a GDP growth rate of between 6.5% and 7.5% for 2021 under certain economic expectations.

The business community acknowledges that Budget 2021 being the largest-ever expansionary budget provides much-needed support for the business continuity of companies and entrepreneurs and to strengthen resilience in the economy in facing the numerous challenges brought on by COVID-19.

Clearly, Budget 2021 has been designed to assist all sectors of the economy to grow

and develop through competitiveness, productivity, and innovation as well as to upgrade the country's infrastructure network and develop human resources.

Leaders from organizations who are still in limbo about digital technology must quickly decide to be nimble or be irrelevant. Leadership in the public sectors will eventually need to play a prominent role as the government, too, move forward to use the force of good in digital technology.

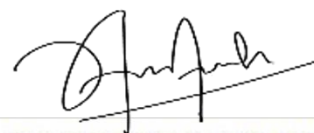
We are looking at simplifying processes, making well informed decisions and everything starts from the leaders. Yes, to go big with digital, leadership would be the most important variable in the start of digitalization journey of any company.

I hope this will set the tone for the deliberations and conversations throughout this event. We really need more innovative ideas on how to leverage digitalisation, and also how to incorporate Breakthrough, Integrity and Good into our forward planning to propel Malaysia ahead under the new normal, ensure that Digital Malaysia comes true. Thus, there will be more business and market-friendly and grow investors' confidence as well.

With that, I thank you for your kind attention. I would also like to thank the organisers, Digital Productivity Nexus and MPC for their efforts in ensuring the event continues in the foreseeable future. I wish everyone a productive day ahead and a very successful conference.

Thank you.

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