

PRESS STATEMENT

PIKOM SAYS BUDGET 2021 IS NO GAME CHANGER

- Merely a continuation of programs that are ongoing
- Short-term & stop-gap measures to address impact of Covid-19

Petaling Jaya, 9 November, 2020: PIKOM feels the Budget 2021 announcement is a continuation of various programmes that are currently ongoing during the recovery phase of Covid19.

According to PIKOM Chairman, Danny Lee, “The budget seems too focused on the Covid19 recovery process, which has already started in June. Therefore, what is being laid out is not a game changer for Malaysia as it lacks longer-term economic transformation impetus.”

However, PIKOM applauds the focus and allocation of RM27million for cybersecurity programs as it is an integral part of the digital transition under the Malaysian Digital Economy roadmap in collaboration with the private sectors. In addition to that, the budget of RM100million for MDEC to upskill existing work force in the tech industry will complement the HRDF Penjana Initiative that is currently ongoing till 2022.

Another RM100million has also been allocated for reskilling and upskilling programs in partnership with the industry associations. This will continue to positively impact employability. Under Penjana HRDF initiative, PIKOM brings along 100 member-companies and training providers to run more than 13 tech-related programs for new employees to fit the demands of new skilled talents in the industry. This includes IOT, Data Analytics, ecommerce, RPA and Cybersecurity to name a few.

PIKOM foresees a boost in electronic and IT device purchases with the additional lifestyle allowance increase to RM3000 which will help boost IT purchase. The move for GLC to contribute RM150 million for the purchase of laptops for 150,000 students in 500 schools under the CERDIK fund is also welcomed.

PIKOM also views positively the shot in the arm given to Equity Crowd Funding (ECF) which will play a catalytic role in the start-up scene. Continued funding for digital transformation is also a boon which would provide a continued momentum to companies embarking on their digital

journey. The focus on e-commerce and e-wallets while commendable may not have been sufficiently wide enough to cover all segments of society.

The tech industry hopes the government continues to see IT as essential and strategize on longer term economic recovery plans, this could be considered should there be any additional budget requisition next year.

PIKOM, THE NATIONAL TECH ASSOCIATION OF MALAYSIA, is the association representing the technology industry in Malaysia. Its membership currently stands at more than 1,000 active companies involved in a whole spectrum of tech products and services, and which command 80% of the total TECH business in Malaysia.

There are 5 Chapters under PIKOM: OM; CIO; Cybersecurity; E-Commerce; Venture Investment. These chapters help improve and drive the business climate for all member companies, together with promoting industry growth in line with the Digital Malaysia roadmap / national aspirations.

As the Voice of the Tech Industry, PIKOM embraces the task of growing the size and capabilities of the tech industry in Malaysia by creating opportunities for its members as well as all Malaysians to capture the benefits offered by advances in technology by focusing on the following:

- Spearhead, promote & encourage development of resources, professional skills and programmes in Malaysia's digital and technology industry.
- Represent the local tech industry to the Government and private sector both local and overseas.
- Provide a platform for tech players and users to meet, network, learn and share ideas in order to grow the industry and improved applications.
- Foster high standards of conduct, service and performance throughout the tech industry.
- Promote and market local tech services to the region and overseas.

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