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**ONE YEAR OF MALAYSIA BAHARU
PM: WE HAVE FULFILLED 39%
OF THE PLEDGES**

PERSONALITY
WORLD RECOGNISES
DR MAHATHIR'S INFLUENCE,
LEADERSHIP QUALITY

6

SPECIAL ISSUE
THE NATIONAL ANTI
CORRUPTION PLAN 2019-2023

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EDITOR'S NOTE



The world of work is changing – at least that is what we are constantly being told under the Pakatan Harapan coalition after the outcome of the last 14th General Election (GE14) on 9 May 2018. However, is it changing in the right way? There is the notion of flexible working, pushing my team to find their own little corner of real estate every morning to generate better workflows and workspaces.

While this might ostensibly be dressed up as a measure to encourage cohesion, collaboration and creative exchange, the main aim is to encourage work smart ethic rather than work hard because quality is much better than quantity.

Soon has I step into my new office, I rearranged the office furniture to make my surroundings simpler and let in more light. It's a place to sketch out bold new ideas on a grand scale. I was rearranging the furniture in my mind, too – straightening the crooked pictures, regarding the tattered beliefs that once fit in but now just blocked the light.

This is the first and the beginning issue for this year and I am amazed at how quickly the months has flown by. In this light, we have worked on a line-up of features and spreads that we hope will add punch and put colour to your year.

We beckon you to slow down, step back and capture the list of challenges that the new government faces to put Malaysia on a new footing and ensure that it can once again aspire to become a dynamic emerging economy is by no means trifling.

On that score, it is clear that as we mark Pakatan Harapan's first year in office on 9 May 2019, Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's administration has accomplished a good deal.

Dr Mahathir has unveiled a new plan to achieve sustainable and equitable economic growth by 2030. The new initiative, tagged "Shared Prosperity", replaces the now-unachievable Vision 2020 target, which was for Malaysia to become a developed nation by next year.

If your days were as exciting and eventful as ours, we should be anticipating the remaining of this year with equal relish after the government's hundreds initiatives for the Rakyat's welfare and well-being.

We will definitely be hosting more events where we can connect and engage with all the readers of Malaysia Focus on a regular basis, to promote the policies and national agenda to ensure it is understood, supported, appreciated and assimilated, cultivated and practised by the citizens.

If you would like to join us, do drop us an email. We would love to say hi. Enjoy the issue!

Muhammad Najmi Mustapha

PM: WE HAVE FULFILLED 39% OF THE PLEDGES



Pakatan Harapan presented its first “report card” listing down several fulfilled pledges and successes in its first year of administration, saying that it had fulfilled 39% of its pledges measured against 464 initiatives.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who expressed his gratitude that the transition of power was done peacefully was also happy that the change in government was not tainted with riots and violence.

“I am grateful that I have a long life and I am able to continue serving the country.

“I am also glad that the change of government was not tainted by riots or violence, even though there were attempts to deny the results of the election.

“This performance is measured based on the ongoing status of 464 initiatives, which are policies and specific actions that is stated in each election pledge,” he said in his special address in conjunction with Pakatan’s first anniversary as Federal Government.

He also listed the appointments of women in high positions as one of the government’s successes and described it as a step forward in empowering Malaysian women.

He highlighted that for the first time in the country’s history, the position of Deputy Prime Minister was held by a woman.

“Besides several important posts in the Cabinet, Malaysia also appointed a female Chief Justice for the first time.

“Bank Negara Malaysia is again helmed by a woman, while other government-linked companies and government departments are also headed by women,” he said.

He also said the Pakatan government has ensured the rule of law was enforced, with clear separation of powers between the executive, legislative and the judiciary.

Dr Mahathir said the pledge to reform draconian and oppressive laws was ongoing.

“We have put a moratorium on the death penalty while we study the views of the people as not everyone agrees that it should be repealed.

“As for the Anti-Fake News Act, we have stopped enforcing it while we wait for the law to be repealed.

“The media has been given freedom and they do not have to wait for directives from leaders in Putrajaya like before,” said Dr Mahathir.

He said the economy continues to grow with signs that investor confidence was increasing.

“We have also fulfilled our promise to recognise the equal partners status of Sabah and Sarawak in Malaysia,” he said.

Specific initiatives have been put in place towards FELDA’s recovery, with the government pumping in RM6.23 billion to help FELDA and its settlers.

The youth, he said, have also been given prominence by the government, with the appointment of the youngest Cabinet minister.

As for housing, Dr Mahathir said the government has set up a National Affordable Housing Council to facilitate the construction of one million affordable houses within two-terms.

“These achievements reflect the government’s commitment to build the nation and fulfil aspirations.

“We have four more years to ensure that all our pledges are fulfilled. We are confident that this can be achieved before the end of this government’s term,” said Dr Mahathir.

Source: *The Star Online*

SHARED PROSPERITY

Efforts to make Malaysia a continuously developing nation in tandem with fair and inclusive economic distribution at each stage of the value chain & regardless of class, race & geography to create harmony & stability among the people by 2030

Goal:

To provide a decent standard of living for all Malaysians

Objectives:

- To narrow the income and wealth gap
- As new development model for all
- To build a brighter Malaysia and one of Asia’s leading economic axes

1

Restructuring & enhancing the business ecosystem & nation’s industries

- Adoption of technology & Industrial Revolution 4.0 comprehensive use of digital economy & enhancement of skills of high-value employees, essential to spurring the country’s economy

2

Inclusive regional development

- Ensuring the development of more economic centres nationwide to reduce gaps in the cities, between urban & rural areas, developed & lagging states, and between peninsula and East Malaysia

3

New growth sectors

- Investment & capacity building in new growth sectors are crucial in a radically changing world economy
- Malaysia should not merely be a consumer country of producing more of its own international-standard products

4

Talent and energy resources reformation

- Overall review of the capacity-building & skills programmes in the private & government sectors
- Producing a competitive, productive & relevant workforce to industries & the world

5

Improving the labour market & income

- Ensuring that the policies & programmes can give workers fairer incomes
- Providing more opportunities for local workers at all levels should be a priority

6

Strengthening social welfare

- Policies & programmes towards more comprehensive social welfare should be strengthened based on the principle of meeting economic needs

7

Improving social capacity of society

- Malaysia needs a mature, knowledgeable, hardworking and united community
- Increasing social capacity & creating a strong social support structure are essential to rapid development of the country

WORLD RECOGNISES DR MAHATHIR'S INFLUENCE, LEADERSHIP QUALITY



In just a year of his tenure as Malaysia's seventh Prime Minister, Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad has been recognised as one of the world's most influential men.

In fact, earlier in January, he was named the Muslim Man of the Year by The Muslim 500, a ranking of the world's 500 most influential Muslims. In April, Dr Mahathir was ranked among the 100 most influential individuals in the world for the year 2019 by international news magazine 'Time'.

BOLD, FIRM ATTITUDE

As the oldest Prime Minister in the world, many know Dr Mahathir as a bold and vocal leader, always stands firm in his decision, trustworthy and has a high level of discipline, especially in terms of punctuality.

With a modest and tranquil look, Dr Mahathir is highly respected by many and regarded as a credible leader with a sharp mind and who is not afraid of giving or receiving criticism.

In his speech at the 73rd United Nations (UN) General Assembly in New York on 29 September last year, Dr Mahathir made a bold call for a reform of the world body and suggested that a veto should not be by just one permanent member but by at least two and backed by three non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

He also captured the world's attention when he condemned the Myanmar government

And earlier this month, international portal, Fortune.com, ranked Dr Mahathir 47th in its 'World's 50 Greatest Leaders' list.

The three publications described Dr Mahathir, 93, as an extraordinary man for leading the coalition of (formerly) opposition parties, Pakatan Harapan, to win the 14th general election in May last year and for being re-elected as Malaysia's Prime Minister.

for the massacre of Rohingyas in Rakhine, and Israel for breaking international laws and moral codes.

In November last year, Dr Mahathir was also conferred the "Grand Cordon of the Order of the Paulownia Flowers" by Emperor Akihito of Japan.

The conferment of Japan's highest award followed the contributions by the Prime Minister in strengthening the bilateral ties between Malaysia and Japan.



RECOGNISED BY THE WORLD

Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM) Faculty of Modern Language and Communication lecturer Dr Syed Agil Alsagoff said Dr Mahathir was recognised as a credible leader as his thoughts and ideas had been appreciated and praised by many world leaders.



The premier, who had also held the chair of the Organisation for Islamic Cooperation (OIC), had formulated various strategies for the unification of Arab nations to break away from the influence of the United States and Israel.

"His criticisms of the Israeli occupation of Palestine and the US invasion of Iraq in 2003, had also encouraged and motivated the Arab nations to support his leadership and recognised him as a respected world leader.

"Dr Mahathir success in transforming Malaysia from a third world country into a developing country also attracted the West Asian countries to emulate his political leadership. In fact, East Asian countries have also made him an exemplary model in their economic and political empowerment," he said.

Syed Agil said Dr Mahathir was also regarded as a Muslim statesman who transformed Malaysia into a model for the Muslim world and would always be remembered as a Malaysian leader who had channeled various assistance to Bosnia and Herzegovina to rebuild itself after the Balkan country was involved in a war in the 1990s.

Dr Mahathir success in bringing together both the third world and the developing countries through the Langkawi International Dialogue (LID) consultative council and in becoming the driving force behind the cooperation between those third worlds and the Islamic countries through the OIC has made him a highly respected and exceptional leader in the international political arena, he said.



According to Universiti Utara Malaysia lecturer in politics and international relations Prof Dr Azizuddin Mohd Sani, Dr Mahathir had been consistent in championing world issues including those involving the Palestinians, the Rohingyas as well as developing or underdeveloped countries.

As a man who despises brutality, he said Dr Mahathir had established the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Tribunal to 'put on trial' leaders of the countries involved in Iraq war in 2003 which had claimed the lives of 1.4 million civilians.

"He is also anti-race assassination. That is why when his bid to ratify the Rome Statute failed, he got so angry at those who caused the failure.

"By his boldness in voicing out his opinions, we can see that Dr Mahathir obviously wants Malaysia to continue being the Asian Tiger who is not afraid of voicing out global issues," he said.

At the same time, he said West Asian leaders continued looking up to Dr Mahathir to the extent of regarding him as their 'voice' in fighting Western oppression.

DRIVING FORCE OF REFORMS, TRANSFORMATION

Dr Mahathir is also well-known as a dedicated, principled Prime Minister and always making reforms and transformation in the country's administration.

Syed Agil said it had 'opened the eyes' of other countries to emulate Malaysia, especially after it was able to make political transformation under the leadership of a former Prime Minister appointed for the second time to hold the highest political office.

"Dr Mahathir is regarded as the driving force of reforms and transformation in the country's administration since the first time he was appointed as Prime Minister and held the post for 22 years.

"The nature of Dr Mahathir simplicity in observing political culture with the interests of the people during that period caused the people to be moved by his determination in transforming Malaysia from a third world country into a successful developing country," he said.

Dr Mahathir has also been regarded as a visionary leader who could steer the country to progress further in economic and social areas.

During his tenure as Malaysia's fourth Prime Minister from 1981 to 2003, Malaysia experienced excellent transformation, particularly in infrastructure and socioeconomic development, hence spurred the success of the country in becoming a regional economic power and in facing several global financial crises.

Syed Agil was also in the opinion that the seriousness of Dr Mahathir ideas and thoughts in terms of national and economic development especially when liberating Malaysia from the 1997-1998 economic crisis by fixing of the ringgit peg to the US dollar, had prompted many other countries to seek his advice.

Whereas Azizuddin believed that Dr Mahathir was re-elected to lead the government as the people wanted Malaysia to become a prosperous country.

"His vast experience is badly needed. Malaysians respect him as a great statesman.

"Besides romanticism, Malaysians who have seen the economic prosperity he brought to Malaysia in the 1990s also believe he definitely can do it again," he added.

Source: Bernama

MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS & MULTIMEDIA

2019-2023 STRATEGIC PLAN

"This strategic plan is imperative to ensuring that the ministry's work is implemented in accordance with the plan based on its vision, mission and objectives as well as the latest policies of the government."

Gobind Singh Deo
Minister of Communications & Multimedia

- A framework to foster a "Digitally-Driven, Creative, Informed & Connected Community"
- Reinforces the role, functions and responsibilities of the Ministry in giving people the best service possible through collaboration with its departments & agencies



Source: Ministry of Communications & Multimedia





MALAYSIA RANK 1ST IN WORLD'S BEST HEALTHCARE CATEGORY

Malaysia, with a score of 95 out of 100, was ranked first in the Best Healthcare in the World category of the 2019 International Living Annual Global Retirement Index.

According to the International Living website, among top six countries that obtained the best ratings in the category of Best Healthcare in the World for this year, Malaysia ranked first with its world-class healthcare services and sophisticated infrastructure.

It said that with 13 hospitals in the country accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI), where almost all doctors majority of whom were trained in the United Kingdom, the United States or Australia were fluent in English, thus communication was flawless.

"There are both private and public hospitals for expatriates to choose from, to suit one's needs though the private hospitals tend to be a bit more expensive but are more up to Western standards than the public hospitals," it said, adding that even at the private hospitals, the treatment was affordable for minor visits.



"The prescriptions in Malaysia cost a fraction of what you pay at home. But it's not just the cost that is attractive it's the service.

"Pharmacists, similar to rest of medical staff in Malaysia, are well-trained and informed. The Malaysians are friendly people, but it's the genuine interest they take which impresses," it said.

Source: *Bernama*

MALAYSIA RANK 15TH IN WORLD BANK DOING BUSINESS 2019 REPORT

Malaysia has regained its place among the top 20 economies in the world at number 15 in the World Bank Doing Business 2019 Report.

In a statement, Minister of International Trade and Industry Datuk Darell Leiking said this was a significant improvement compared to the country's 24th ranking in the previous year.

The Doing Business Report ranks economies based on their business regulations and the ease of doing business.

The indicator sets evaluated the Starting of 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.

In Malaysia, special task force Pemudah initiates and drives regulatory reforms and improvements within the Doing Business indicator areas in Malaysia.

The new co-chairs of Pemudah are Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng and Leiking.

Leiking said this shows 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," he said.

Leiking said Malaysia's ranking at 15th was due to the World Bank recognising the government's numerous regulatory reforms and improvements.

He said the government, through Pemudah, will undertake more reform initiatives to further enhance the ease of doing business in a new Malaysia that prospers through business competitiveness.

Source: *The Edge Malaysia*



THE NATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION PLAN 2019-2023

“The Government’s commitment is to achieve the aspiration for Malaysia to be known for her integrity and not corruption.”

Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, Prime Minister of Malaysia



- To uphold the rule of law
- To improve government efficiency, transparency and accountability through good governance
- To create a clean business environment



- Ensure accountability and credibility of judiciary, public prosecutors and law enforcement agencies
- Provide efficient and responsive service
- Build business integrity



- 1. Political Governance**
Strategy: Strengthening political integrity and accountability
- 2. Public Sector Administration**
Strategy: Strengthening the effectiveness of public service delivery
- 3. Public Procurement**
Strategy: Increasing the efficiency and transparency in public procurement
- 4. Legal and Judicial**
Strategy: Enhancing the credibility of the legal and judicial system
- 5. Law Enforcement**
Strategy: Institutionalising the credibility of law enforcement agencies
- 6. Corporate Governance**
Strategy: Inculcating good governance in a corporate entity

Source: National Centre for Governance, Integrity and Anti-Corruption (GIACC)



MALYSIAN CABINET 2019



PRIME MINISTER
YAB TUN DR. MAHATHIR BIN MOHAMAD



DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER
YAB DATO' SERI DR. WAN AZIZAH DR. WAN ISMAIL
MINISTER OF WOMEN, FAMILY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER



DEPUTY MINISTER



CONTENT ANALYSIS ON INFORMATION OF CORRUPTION IN MALAYSIA

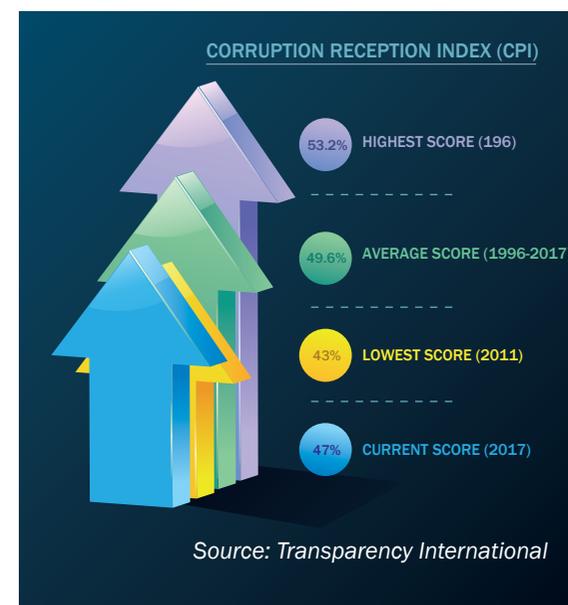
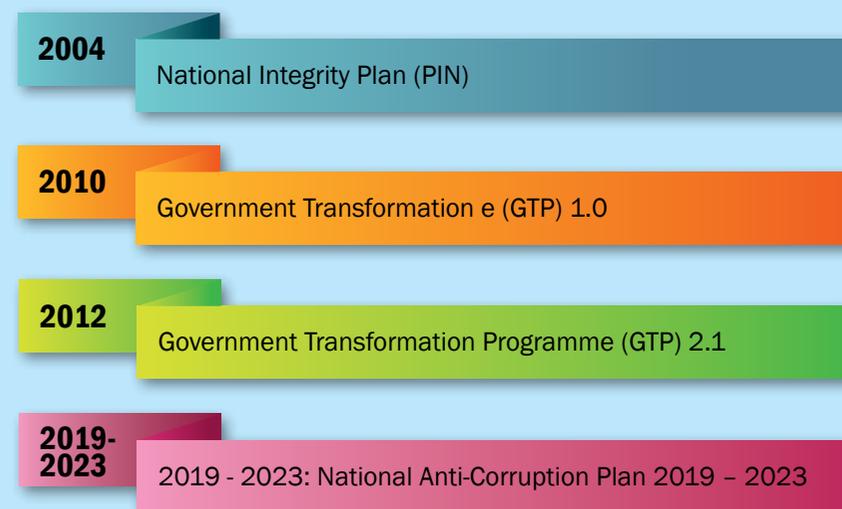
From the analysis of more than 20,000 complaints received by the MACC from 2013 until 2018, nine causes of corruption have been identified. A Pareto Chart depicting the 80/20 Rule, gives a clear indication where more than 80% of the corruption complaints

received concern four causes namely Administrative Failures, Conflict of Interest, Weak Internal Control and Non Compliance, and Lack of Transparency. These four causes have been taken into account in developing the NACP's strategies and initiatives.



Source: Malaysia Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)

MALAYSIAN ANTI-CORRUPTION JOURNEY



RM1.8 trillion Amount lost through illicit financial flow between **2005 until 2014** of which some portion was corruption

Source: Global Financial Integrity Report 2017

Sector most vulnerable to corruption **63.30%** corruption complaints involve the **Public Sector**

Source: Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC)

ECRL TO CONTRIBUTE 2.7% TO THE ECONOMY UPON COMPLETION IN 2026

By Shaheera Aznam Shah

According to MIDF Amanah Investment Bank Bhd's estimation, the resumption of the RM44 billion East Coast Rail Link (ECRL) project is expected to contribute 2.7% to Malaysia's GDP upon completion in 2026, while compensation of employees and net operating surplus are projected to rise by 3.6% and 2.1% respectively.

"However, the full estimated GDP contribution will depend on the pace of spillover effects to other economic sectors," it noted in a research note released on 7 May 2019.

MIDF said the ECRL is expected to generate more economic activities in other sectors, hence shifting to a less government-reliant economy, in line with Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's idea to downsize the public sector over a period of time through industrialisation amid increasing burden towards the nation's financial health.

"This will reduce the government's operating expenditure especially on the emoluments which accounted for the largest share of total expenditure at 30%.

It added that the project is expected to benefit the transportation, industrial and

tourism activities in the country, particularly to these three states: Kelantan, Terengganu and Pahang.

"The transportation ratio of the ECRL is 70% freight and 30% passengers. Hence, industrial and tourism, as well as external activities, are predicted to benefit from the ECRL project," it said.

MIDF said the ECRL project could potentially spur the country's oil and gas (O&G) industry as it connects Malaysia's financial hub to the O&G hub in the east.

"The ECRL is linking Malaysia's financial hub in the west to the O&G hub in the east, while allowing passengers and goods to have an easier access from the west to the east and vice versa.

"It is also allowing for greater connectivity of goods from Port Klang to Kertih and Kemaman. Currently, the only mode of transportation from the west to the east is via road," it said.

The research house pointed out that Port Klang will indirectly benefit from the increase in cargo throughput in Kuantan Port due to heightened connectivity.

"The combined world market share of major Chinese container lines such as Cosco Shipping Co Ltd and Evergreen Line stood at 17.7% as of 14 April 2019.

"We believe that Kuantan Port could still absorb the share of volumes from Chinese container lines which will increase its conventional and gateway container volume.

"Meanwhile, this may also serve as a buffer for gateway volumes in Port Klang – Northport and Westport, especially following the recalibration of shipping alliances in April 2017 which saw container volumes being relocated to Singapore," MIDF noted.

In addition, the research house said the increase in cargo movement is expected to improve the utilisation rates of Malaysian ports.

"With more throughputs expected to be handled with the resumption of ECRL, especially at Kuantan Port and Port Klang, utilisation rates will increase.

"In the case of Westports (Holdings Bhd), the increase of utilisation rates to a level of around 75% would serve as a trigger point to start expanding new container terminals.

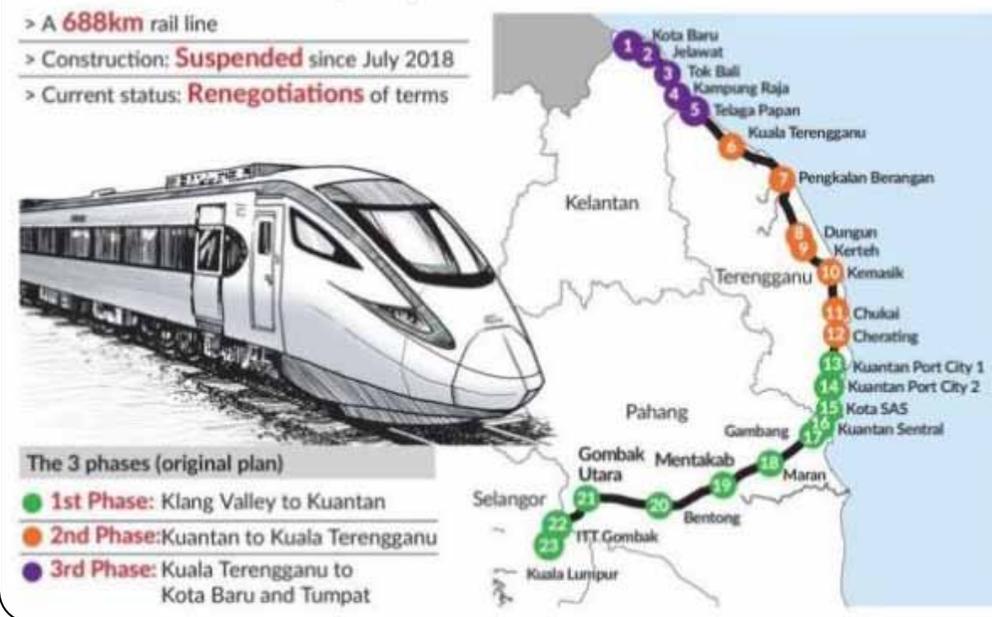
"Overall, we opine that both of these ports are set to benefit from the ECRL and help promote the economic growth, especially in east coast states, as they play a role in facilitating Malaysia-China trade," it said.

As the ECRL has now been rerouted to pass through Negeri Sembilan, MIDF said the changes would not heavily impact the flow of freight traffic.

"We still believe that travel time from Shenzhen, China, via Kuantan Port and ECRL to Port Klang could be reduced by slightly more than a day instead of passing by the Straits of Malacca," it added.

EAST COAST RAIL LINK (ECRL) PROJECT

- > A 688km rail line
- > Construction: **Suspended** since July 2018
- > Current status: **Renegotiations** of terms





GOBIND: LET 5G BE ANOTHER MILESTONE TO A GREATER MALAYSIA

Communications and Multimedia Minister Gobind Singh Deo wants the fifth-generation technology or better known as 5G to be another milestone to a greater Malaysia.

“This is because 5G will amplify Malaysia’s capacity to participate in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0), and enable its industries to fully exploit the power of artificial intelligence, robotics, big data, virtual reality and software engineering,” he said.

Speaking at the 5G Malaysia showcase launched on 18 April 2019, Gobind said the 5G technology would bring innovation which would substantially impact on almost every sector including education, transportation, agriculture, healthcare, manufacturing, entertainment and public safety.

“The Multimedia Super Corridor (MSC) has placed Malaysia on the world map. Secure in our strengths, proud of our history and confident in our future, let us use this opportunity to continue the journey we started 23 years ago,” he said, adding that the government could not succeed in

building the nation alone and required the collective participation of everyone.

The showcase was launched by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Eleven exhibitors are participating in the 5G Malaysia Showcase at Kompleks Perbadanan Putrajaya to highlight different applications for industries including education, health care, farming and smart manufacturing.

According to Gobind, today’s launch and showcase was a continuation of that MSC journey which began 23 years ago.

“It is a journey that we embrace together, as a country, confident and hopeful that we will together through technology build a better Malaysia, a country in which everyone will collectively benefit and prosper,” he said.

In the spirit of innovation forged from the early days of the MSC, Gobind proudly said that Malaysia was now amongst the first countries in Asia and the world to roll out the next generation of 5G connectivity infrastructure.

In June last year, Gobind said the government adopted a new approach to broadband and connectivity, where it took steps to improve the quality of broadband, to increase speeds and to reduce wherever possible pricing of fixed broadband.

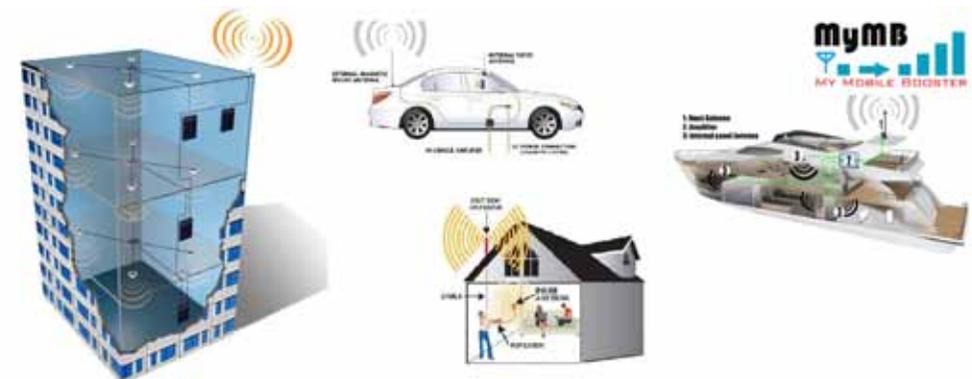
“The impact of this initiative, which involved 1.2 million people was a reduction in prices of between 35 percent to 55 percent and increase of internet speeds in some instances by 10 times from July to December last year,” he said.

Under the new policy, Gobind said an entry-level 30Mbps package costs RM79 as compared to previous 10Mbps package of about RM129, and the new policy translates to a yearly reduction in the cost of living by RM600 while increasing the speed by three times for entry-level packages.

“Yes, it is an aggressive implementation plan but we must rise to the challenge as time is of the essence. We need infrastructure to remain globally competitive and this government aims to deliver notwithstanding the odds stacked against us,” he said.

Gobind also praised Dr Mahathir’s vision to recognise the need to stay ahead in the world of technology as far back as 1996, where the Prime Minister saw great potential in its strength and a future in which connectivity, big data and robotics, amongst others would be essential areas upon which the world would operate.

“He therefore pitched Malaysia as a model of a modern digital nation with the best possible environment or ecosystem to harness the full potential of the industrial revolution.



It also put Malaysia ahead in terms of investment choice as connectivity was now much sought after when decisions were made as to whether or not businesses should expand into any particular country, he said.

Gobind said the government also rolled out the National Fibersation and Connectivity Plan (NFCP) in October last year, which provides a clear roadmap and targets to be achieved in 2023.

“This vision, which was translated into the Multimedia Super Corridor or the MSC, continues to be a source of pride for us Malaysians. It was more than a technological promise. It was a promise that sparked a sense of hope for a better tomorrow for all of us,” he said.

Source: Bernama

MALAYSIA LAUNCHES 'LOVE MY PALM OIL' CAMPAIGN



The Ministry of Primary Industries announced a year-long "Love My Palm Oil" campaign to fight anti-palm oil campaigns that are threatening the people's livelihood.

Minister Teresa Kok Suh Sim said the campaign's objective was to instil national pride and greater appreciation for Malaysian palm oil, focusing on socio-economic importance, health, nutrition, and food and non-food applications.

"Events and activities will be held catering to different stakeholders, including industry members, professionals, students, academia and the general public.



"These include targeting our young impressionable people from primary school to tertiary levels through the setting up of palm oil ambassador clubs in campuses, Edupalm forum, palm oil cooking competition and educational palm tree planting exercise," she said in her keynote address at the Reach and Remind, Friends of the Industry Seminar 2019 and Dialogue organised by the Malaysian Palm Oil Council in Kuala Lumpur.

Kok said for the government to fight against anti-palm oil campaigns that are endangering the people's livelihood, all Malaysians needed to know and love palm oil.

She said the sentiment was also shared by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad who had voiced out his concerns and support in protecting the nation's palm industry and the livelihood of fellow Malaysians. "Tun (Dr Mahathir) has always been very supportive of the palm oil industry as it is a major contributor to our economy and rural poverty eradication.

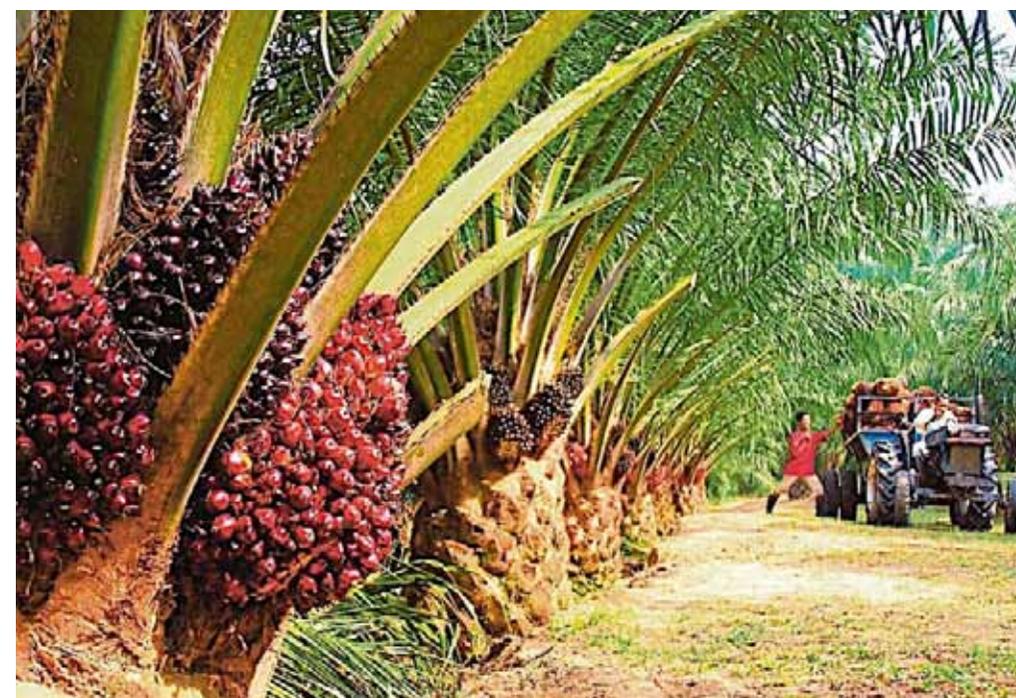


"While we will continue to face many more challenges in 2019, let us be more resourceful in the marketplace and also uphold our Malaysian palm oil.

"This is because in reality our own people, including businesses, are not aware of the socio-economic importance and nutritional value of palm oil, besides it being more environment-friendly compared with other competing oils," she said.

This, Kok said, was evident by the misperception among many Malaysians who were taken in by the aggressive anti-palm oil campaigns. She also expressed regret that some local businesses were found to be selling imported "no palm-oil" labelled products.

She said the locals also needed to be educated with the correct information such as that the palm oil industry was more efficient, with yield ten times more than other oils per hectare planted, thus utilising less land, and it used fewer pesticides and chemical fertilisers than other vegetable oil sources.



Meanwhile, she said since Europe was demanding only certified palm oil by 2020 through the Amsterdam Declaration, Malaysia was prepared to meet the requirement through its mandatory Malaysian Sustainable Palm Oil (MSPO) certification scheme.

"We will ensure that all palm oil exports to the global markets, including Europe, are at least MSPO-certified by Jan 1, 2020," she said.

The minister also called for the stakeholders to rally behind the government and support this effort with the ultimate goal of producing and marketing palm oil that was sustainably produced with the highest mark of Malaysian quality assurance.

"In other words, a five-star oil," she added

Source: Bernama

FOOD BANK PROGRAMMES AMONG SUCCESSES OF KPDNHEP: SAIFUDDIN

The Malaysian Food Bank Programme which helps the poor get food without any bureaucratic nonsense is among the pride of Pakatan Harapan in its efforts to lighten the burden of the cost of living for the public since it took over the government in May last year.

Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail said the programme was the ministry's initiative under the concept of "Zero Waste Policy" as secretariat of the National Cost of Living Action Council.

"This programme has produced many volunteers without expecting any returns as well as taught supermarkets and food premises to stop wastage," he said in a press conference held in conjunction with one year PH formed the government on 26 April 2019.

The programme which aims at reducing the cost of living of the people, especially B40 households and tertiary students, had already benefited 85,489 recipients from August last year until March this year.

It targets leftover foods such as bread, vegetables, and fruits from major supermarkets to be distributed to 186,354 heads of household under the poverty line throughout the country while salvaging 1,156 metric tonnes of food.

On the call by various parties to rename the Food Bank as Tabung Makanan, he said this process may take some time as the Food Bank Foundation had already been registered with the Prime Minister's Department. "For now, we will stick with the Food Bank brand, what is important is we are feeding people," he said.

He added that he was proud to be able to present his own idea and a working paper



on "Supply Chain Analysis" at the first meeting of the National Economic Action Council meeting which was chaired by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We are convinced the supply food chain analysis is important in helping the ministry understand the layers involved before the final price reaches the consumers and what element are causing the price hike," he adding that the final report of the analysis was tabled to the Cabinet on 25 April 2019.

Saifuddin said he was also set on helping the public reduce their cost of living by developing e-commerce.

"E-commerce can reduce the layers in business ... when the chains are reduced, the final price is more acceptable to all parties," he said.

Saifuddin said focus would also be given to consumer education and helping the government ensure the efficient implementation of the subsidy scheme. "There are leakages ... cross border and cross industry, with the result that the government budget does not reach the target groups in an efficient manner," he said.

Source: Bernama



IMPLEMENTATION MECHANISM Comprising 4 stages



Source: Ministry of Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs / Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahatir Mohamad

SEVEN



TAX EXEMPTIONS IN MALAYSIA FOR 2019

Tax season can be a stressful time for anybody, especially if you have other things on your plate. If you're already juggling your bills, groceries, and other housing expenses, finding out that you owe the government back taxes can be a real nightmare.

What you may not realise, however, is there are some tricks you can try to lower the taxes you pay year after year. And the best part? Guess what? They're all perfectly legal. Let's take a look at some of the scenarios where these tax exemptions maybe applicable in Malaysia.

1) Cut-off Income

If your income falls below the government's mandated minimum, chances are that you may only need to pay the bare minimum in income taxes. In some countries this amount may be based on the minimum wage, while others may indicate a specific amount for the cut-off.

Starting in 2013, the Malaysian government determined that any annual income falling below the cut-off of RM34,000 after Employees' Provident Fund (EPF) deductions (about RM2,800 per month or less) shall not be taxable. However, this figure may change over time.

2) Dependents

One of the most popular forms of partial tax relief comes for those with a dependent, or someone who relies solely on the taxpayer for basic monetary needs. The most well-known examples of this are parents raising small children or minors, provided they are the taxpayer's biological or legally adopted children, or taxpayers who are supporting elderly parents.

Malaysia offers tax reliefs not only for parents, but also for those supporting disabled patients. In the case of the latter, provisions are made to partially cover medical expenses incurred in the care of the disabled dependent. These reliefs are capped at RM1,500 each for ordinary children and unmarried children over 18, and RM9,000 for disabled dependents.

3) Spousal Support

If you're married, you might be eligible for a tax relief not unlike that for dependents. Malaysia offers a limited tax relief of RM3,000 for those making alimony payments towards their husband or wife. A tax relief of RM3,500 also exists for those supporting a disabled spouse.

4) Donations and Gifts

The government may also grant tax deductions to avid philanthropists, who may donate large sums of their income towards public, civic, charitable, or religious causes. It's worth noting, however, that a sizable percentage of your income must go into the donation before you can qualify for the tax deduction.

In Malaysia, for example, the amount of aggregate income eligible for tax deductions is limited to 7% if you have made a monetary donation to approved institutions, organizations, sports bodies, or projects and National Interests vetted by the Ministry of Finance.

5) Education

In countries with a robust public services infrastructure, residents may expect to pay little to nothing for their studies. If you're paying your own way through college or university, you might be entitled to a tax exemption.

In Malaysia, you may qualify for a tax deduction of up to RM7,000 if you are pursuing higher education – specifically if you are pursuing a degree at the Masters or Doctorate level.

6) Purchase of Various Print Materials

While this is not widespread, some countries may entitle you to a small tax deduction that serves as your "allowance" for buying print materials such as books, magazines, journals and other similar publications. You can deduct RM2,500 from your taxes for the purchase of print and digital materials except for newspapers and banned books.

Remember these exceptions when you file your income tax. Make sure to make it before the deadline! It's a good thing the Inland Revenue Board now allows you to pay your taxes using your Visa, Mastercard, or American Express credit card. Visit <https://byrhasil.hasil.gov.my/> for more information.

7) Lifestyle Tax Relief

The lifestyle tax relief at a limit of RM2,500 yearly will include new categories which are

- purchase of printed newspapers
- smartphones and tablets
- internet subscriptions
- gymnasium membership fees

Source: CompareHero.my





Regardless of your job or industry, there aren't always enough hours in the day to get everything done. As a result, you constantly feel like you're always behind. And that's just not good for your productivity or your health.

So, what's the answer? Work more hours? Not necessarily. As Bob Sullivan explained on CNBC.com, "Research that attempts to quantify the relationship between hours worked and productivity found that employee output falls sharply after a 50-hour work-week, and falls off a cliff after 55 hours – so

much so that someone who puts in 70 hours produces nothing more with those extra 15 hours, according to a study published by John Pencavel of Stanford University."

Instead of putting in those extra hours, you can become more effective at work by focusing on what really matters.

You can get started with that as soon as possible (ASAP) by following these ten simple tips:

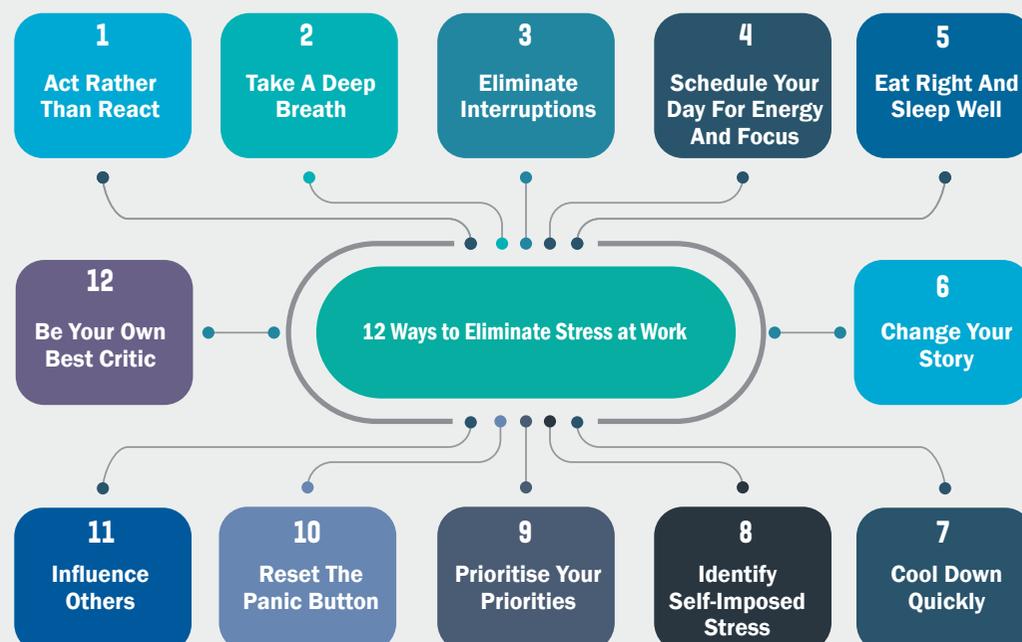


STRESS AT WORK

The average business professional has 30 to 100 projects on their plate. Modern workers are interrupted seven times an hour and distracted up to 2.1 hours a day. And four out of 10 people working at large companies are experiencing a major corporate restructuring, and therefore facing uncertainty about their futures. This may be why more than 40% of adults say they lie awake at night plagued by the stressful events of the day.

Is there a way to maintain steady focus throughout the day? Is it possible to do everything that needs to get done and still have energy left over after work? How do you keep cool under so many demands?

Strategies to take your work stress down a peg, before it takes over your life:



UNDERSTANDING HEARTBURN

– HOW DO I KNOW IF I HAVE HEARTBURN?

“When the LES opens too often or isn’t tight enough, stomach acid can rise up into the esophagus and cause the burning feeling.”



WHAT IS HEARTBURN

Heartburn, sometimes called acid indigestion, is a painful, burning feeling in the middle of your chest or the upper part of your stomach. The pain, which can also spread to your neck, jaw, or arms, can last just a few minutes or stick with you for hours.

WHAT CAUSES HEARTBURN?

There’s a muscle at the entrance of your stomach, called the lower esophageal sphincter (LES) that acts like a gate: It opens to let food move from your esophagus to your stomach, and it shuts to stop food and acid from coming back out.

When the LES opens too often or isn’t tight enough, stomach acid can rise up into the esophagus and cause the burning feeling.

WHO GETS HEARTBURN?

Some people have a higher risk of heartburn, including those who are:

- Smokers
- Overweight
- Pregnant

- Have a hiatal hernia, where the stomach bulges up into the chest through an opening in the diaphragm

TREATMENT AND PREVENTION

Here are a few steps to try:

- 1) Lose weight if you’re overweight**
Extra pounds put pressure on your stomach, forcing more acid up into your esophagus.
- 2) Wear loose clothing**
Tight clothes that press on your stomach can trigger heartburn.
- 3) If you smoke, quit**
Cigarette smoke relaxes the muscle that prevents acid from backing up into the esophagus. It also may increase how much acid your stomach makes.

4) Check your medicines

Regular use of anti-inflammatory and pain medicines (other than acetaminophen) contributes to heartburn.

5) Avoid high-impact exercise



But... what if heartburn bothers you at night:

- 1) Eat a light dinner and avoid foods that trigger your heartburn.
- 2) Don’t lie down for at least 2 to 3 hours after you eat.
- 3) Use blocks or books to raise the head of your bed by 4-6 inches. Or put a foam wedge under your mattress at the head of the bed. Sleeping at an angle will help stop acid from backing up into your esophagus.

WHAT TRIGGERS HEARTBURN?

Triggers vary from person to person, this includes:



TREATING HEARTBURN WITH OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS

Several types of over-the-counter (OTC) and prescription medicines can help with heartburn. Your doctor or pharmacist can help you find the one that's right for you.

Type of medicine	How they work	How fast they start working	How long the effects last	Side effects	Examples
Antacids	They neutralize stomach acid.	Within seconds	Up to 3 hours	Some cause constipation and diarrhea	Alka-Seltzer, Milk of Magnesia Alternagel, Amphojel Gaviscon, Gelusil, Maalox, Mylanta, Rolaids, Pepto-Bismol and Tums
H2 Blockers	They lower the amount of acid your stomach makes.	In about 30 minutes	Up to 12 hours	They may cause constipation, diarrhea, headache, nausea, or vomiting.	Nizatidine (Axid AR), Famotidine (Pepcid AC), Cimetidine (Tagamet HB) and Ranitidine (Zantac)
Proton-Pump Inhibitors (PPIs)	They lower the amount of acid your stomach makes.	Up to 4 days	Up to 24 hours	They may cause diarrhea, headache, stomach pain, nausea, or vomiting.	Esomeprazole (Nexium 24HR), Lansoprazole (Prevacid 24HR), and Omeprazole (Prilosec OTC)

Source: WebMD

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WHAT IS CORRUPTION?

“ Any gratification (namely bribe), submission of false claims and abuse of power that act as an inducement/ reward/ favour to influence the decision making in official matters. ”



CORE OFFENCES



- i. Solicit (ASK)
- ii. Accept
- iii. Agree to accept



- i. Offer
- ii. Give



- i. False Claim (submission of documents containing false particulars)



- i. Abuse of Office / Position

8 REPORTING CHANNELS

ONLINE : CMS: WWW.SPRM.GOV.MY
TELEPHONE: 1800-88-6000
OFFICE : WALK IN TO MACC OFFICES
EMAIL : INFO@SPRM.GOV.MY

SMS : 019-600696
FAX : 03 8899 4329
POST : P.O. BOX 6000
APPS : MACC MOBILE



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