

REHDA's Media Briefing

Challenging Transition for New Malaysia

Lee Heng Guie Executive Director, SERC10 October 2018

Key Messages



RISKS TO GLOBAL ECONOMY STILL LURK



MALAYSIA ECONOMY GROWING, RISKS AHEAD



2019 BUDGET: LEAN BUT GROWTH SUPPORTIVE

Section 1: Global environment – Growing but risks are rising





Global economy still GROWING but MULTIPLE RISKS ahead



Global growth has **MATURED** and **PASSED ITS PEAK**. **INCREASING DOWNSIDE RISKS** to growth over next 18 months.



UNEVEN EXPANSION and **LESS SYNCHRONIZED** in advanced economies and emerging Asia.

"FIVE RISKS" increase global uncertainty:



TRADE WAR



RISING US INTEREST RATES



FINANCIAL VOLATILITY



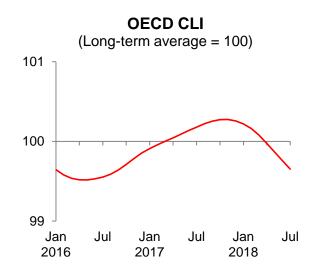
INTENSIFIED RISKS IN EMERGING MARKETS

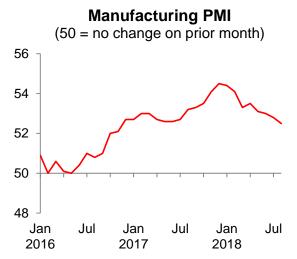


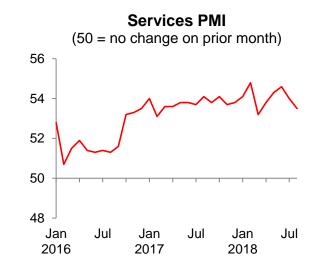
POLITICAL AND GEOPOLITICAL RISKS

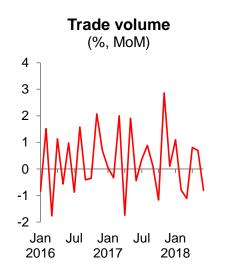


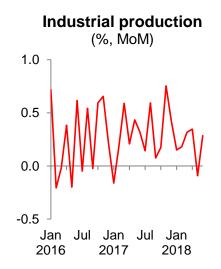
Global indicators point to PEAKING & EASING global growth

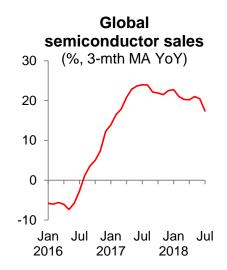


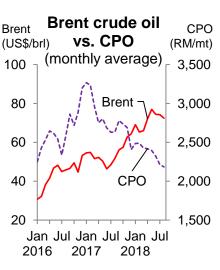










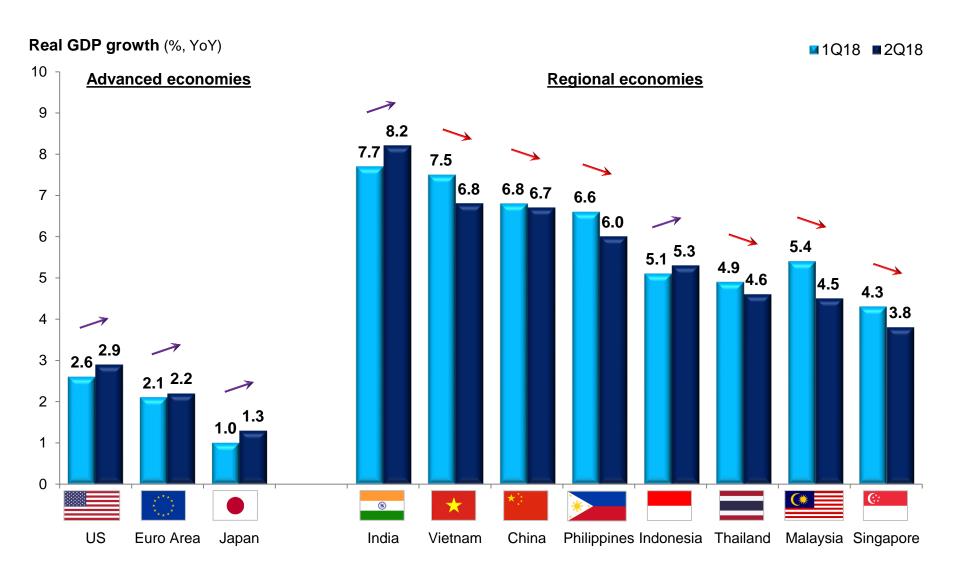


Source: OECD; Markit; CPB; SIA; EIA; MPOB

Jan-Aug Brent crude oil: US\$71/brl 2018 CPO: RM2,363/mt



Uneven EXPANSION in advanced and regional economies



Source: Officials





Section 2:

Domestic economic conditions:

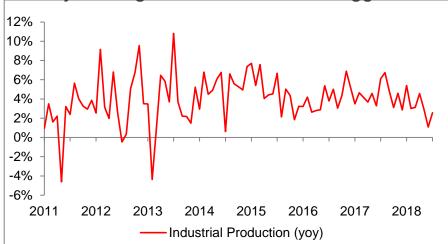
Challenging Transition for New Malaysia



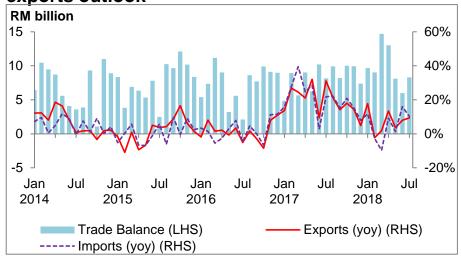


Malaysia: ACTIVITY INDICATORS remain on track

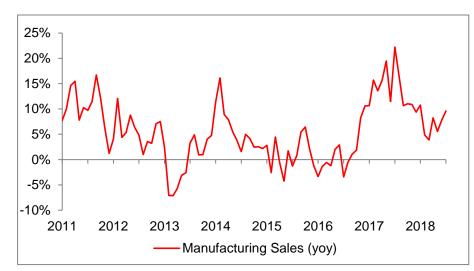
Manufacturing production continues to grow steadily; mining activities remained sluggish



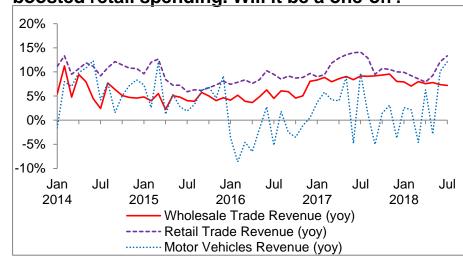
Uncertainties on trade war could temper exports outlook



Manufacturing sales growth is regaining traction



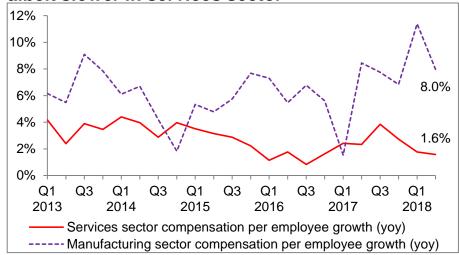
Three months tax holiday (zero-rated GST) boosted retail spending. Will it be a one-off?



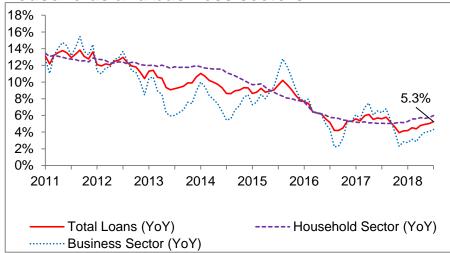
Source: DOSM

Consumption RESILIENCE; IMPROVED investment sentiment

Growing salaries and wages in private sector, albeit slower in services sector

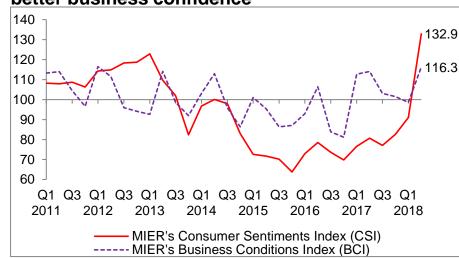


Higher loan growth since April, lifted by both households and business sectors

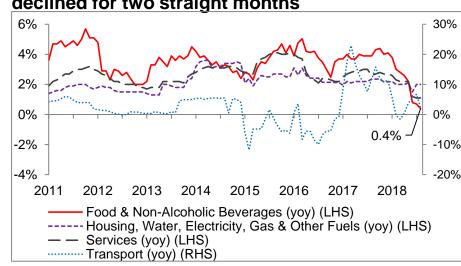


Source: DOSM; MIER; BNM

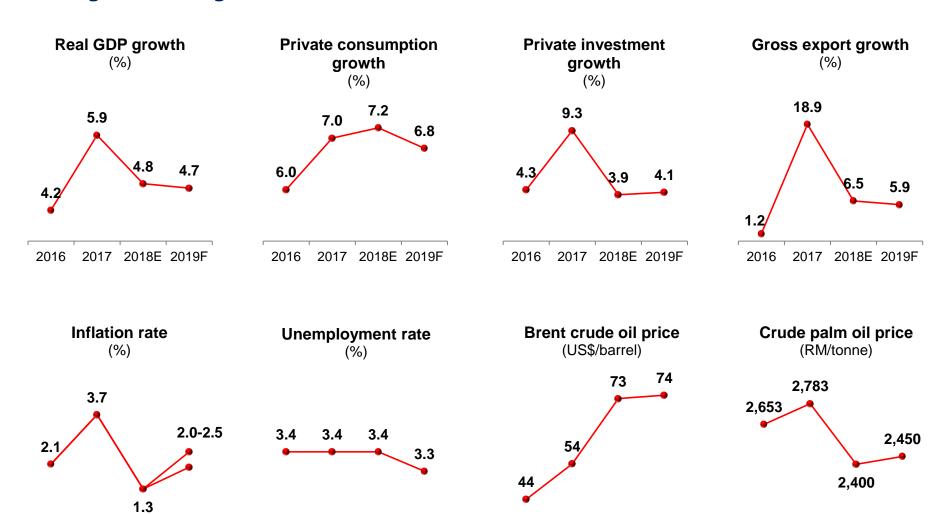
Consumer sentiments surged to 21-year high; better business confidence



Marginal increase in food prices, core CPI has declined for two straight months



Malaysia's key ECONOMIC INDICATORS



2017 2018E 2019F

2016

2017 2018E 2019F

2016

Source: DOSM; BNM; EIA; MPOB; SERC

2017 2018E 2019F



2016

2017 2018E 2019F

2016

Malaysia economy in TRANSITION



STILL POSITIVE GROWTH MOMENTUM. Based on an average 4.9% growth in 1H18, we estimate this year's GDP growth at 4.8%, underpinned largely by consumers demand and exports, albeit negative sentiment risks from the trade tariffs battle and damaging market volatility.



EXPORTS are expected to rise at a moderate pace (2018E: 6.5% vs. 18.9% in 2017). In the first seven months of 2018, exports up 7.3% yoy, with the drivers coming from electronics and electrical products as well as higher crude oil prices.



PRIVATE CONSUMPTION (2018E: 7.2% vs. 7.0% in 2017), thanks to cost of living allowance, stabilized fuel prices, zerorised GST and personal income tax rate cut. The introduction of SST on 1 Sep is expected to take some heat off consumer spending.



PRIVATE INVESTMENT growth had a very subdue start of 3.4% yoy in the first half-year of 2018 on lingering uncertainty ahead of the General Election 14, will likely to pace cautiously given the political and new government's policies transition as well as external headwinds. But, **GOOD GOVERNANCE** and **TRANSPARENCY** will enhance investment prospects over the medium-term.

Growth OUTLOOK for 2019



SUSTAINED POSITIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH. Baseline GDP growth estimate is 4.7% for 2019, supported by continued global growth and trade as well as domestic demand, albeit moderately. Downside risks have increased.



EXPORTS are expected to rise at a moderate pace (2019F: 5.9% vs. 6.5% in 2018), supported by moderate global demand and recovery in commodity prices.



PRIVATE CONSUMPTION (2019F: 6.8% vs. 7.2% in 2018) as households' spending normalize amid the stabilization of fuel prices and the implementation of SST on 1 September 2018.



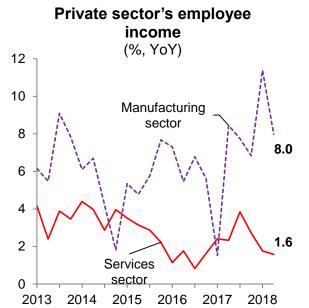
PRIVATE INVESTMENT growth (2019F: 4.1% vs. 3.9% in 2018) will improve slightly on continued cautious about external environment due to the likely protracted and deepening trade war between the US and China. The review, deferment and cancellation of major infrastructure projects will continue to impact private investment.

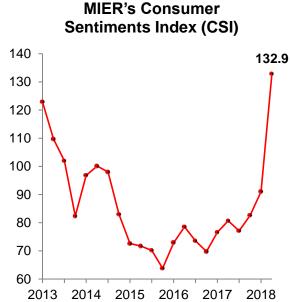


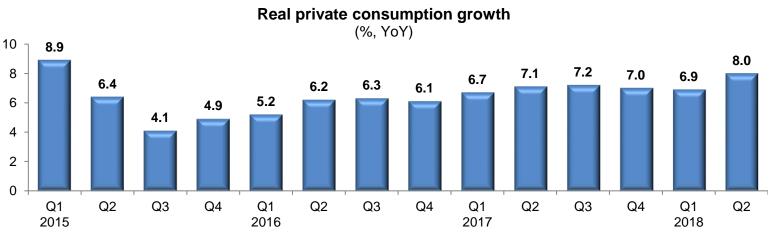
DOWNSIDE RISKS to GDP growth: DEEPENING TRADE TARIFFS BATTLE; AGGRESSIVE HIKES IN US INTEREST RATE DRIVE CAPITAL REVERSALS AND FINANCIAL MARKET VOLATILITY

SOLID consumer spending but will it normalise?

- income growth and labour market conditions
- Household spending will NORMALIZE post 3-mth zerorised GST tax holiday and the introduction of SST on 1 Sep
- Potential DAMPENING FACTORS: review of fuel subsidy and cost of living aid





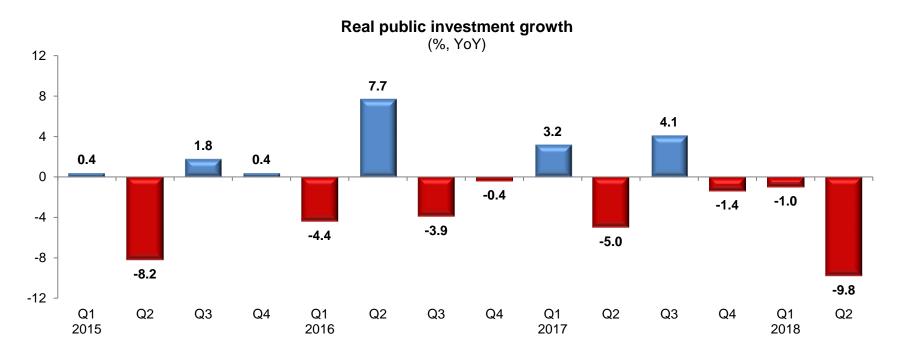


Source: DOSM: MIER



Public investment turning from support to DRAG

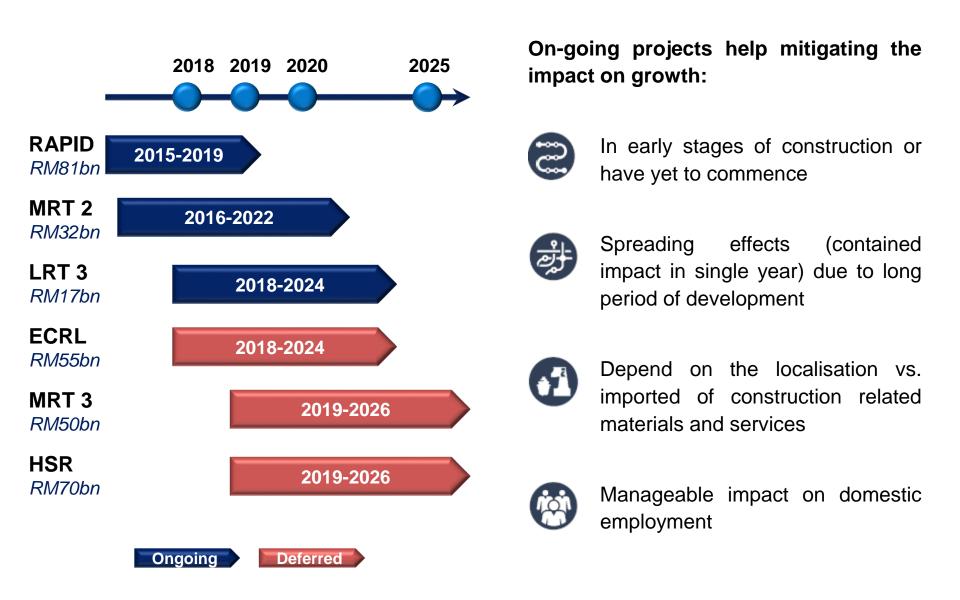
- PUBLIC INVESTMENT CONTRACTED SHARPLY (-9.8% yoy in 2Q vs. -1.0% in 1Q).
- Rationalisation of development expenditure means moderate public investment growth.
- Further consolidation of development expenditure in 2019.



Source: DOSM

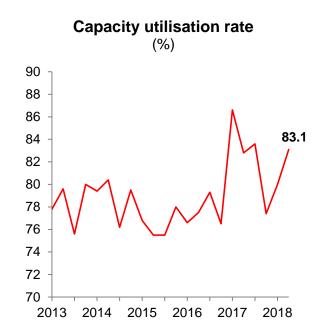


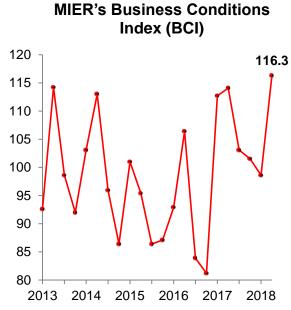
DEFERRED OR CANCELLED mega projects: manageable impact

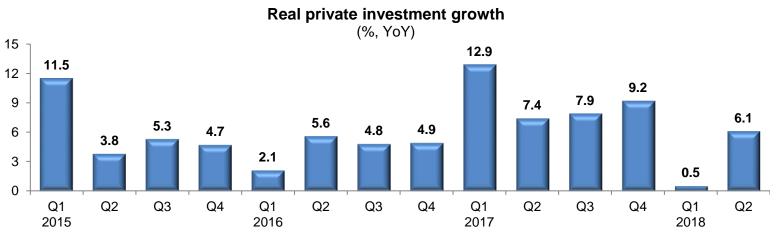


Private investment BOUNCES back but CAUTIOUS

- Private investment
 BOUNCED BACK to 6.1%
 yoy in 2Q (0.5% in 1Q)
- But, CAUTIOUS about external environment; new government's policy implications
- 2019 Budget to BOOST private investment in tourism, manufacturing, IR 4.0 and e-commerce







Source: DOSM: MIER

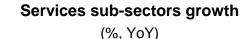
SERVICES sector is driving the economy

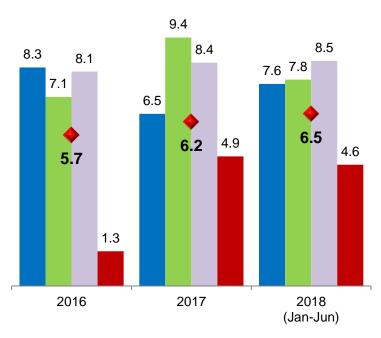
Services sector (2018E: 6.4%; 2019F: 5.8%)

% share of GDP in 2017:

54.5%

- Continued growth, albeit slower in most subsectors.
- Strong consumer spending will somewhat normalise following the 3-month "tax holiday" and the reintroduction of SST on 1 Sep.
- Supporting factors: Tourism activities; strong consumer sentiments; steady growth in income healthy labour market conditions and continued trade activities.
- Pressing factors: Potential review of fuel subsidy and cash-aid.





Overall services sector

Major sub-sectors:

Wholesale [12.5%]

Retail [12.1%]

Information and communication [11.1%]

Finance [9.2%]

[] indicates % of total services GDP in 2017



Source: DOSM

Socio-Economic Research Centre

MANUFACTURING sector braces the escalation trade war

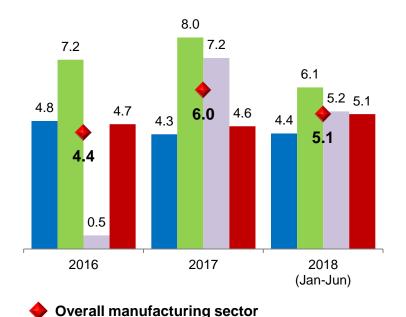
Manufacturing sector (2018E: 4.8%; 2019F: 4.5%)

% share of GDP in 2017:

23.0%

- Growth in electronics and electrical products and consumer-related clusters have moderated.
- Lack of short-term catalysts.
- Supporting factors: Diversion of orders arising from the deepening trade spats between the US and China, high global oil prices.
- Pressing factors: Slower semiconductor sales; supply chains disruption; slower domestic construction activities dampening demand of construction-related materials.

Manufacturing sub-sectors growth (%, YoY)



Major sub-sectors:

Primary-related cluster [36.8%]

E&E cluster [27.9%]

Consumer-related cluster [22.9%]

Construction-related cluster [12.4%]

[] indicates % of total manufacturing GDP in 2017



Source: DOSM

MINING to rebound from a contraction

Mining sector (2018E: -1.0%; 2019F: 0.5%)

% share of GDP in 2017: **8.4%**

- Crude oil prices surge on no formal agreement to increase production; supply disruptions due to sanction on Iran; cut in Venezuela's production.
- Gas leak incident in January 2018. PETRONAS is still waiting for approval from the authority to resume operations.
- **Supporting factors**: Rising crude oil prices; the resumption of production of LNG.
- Pressing factors: Declining oil prices on strong US dollar, tighter liquidity conditions and concerns over slower global economic growth.



Source: BNM [] indicates weight of mining indices in 2015

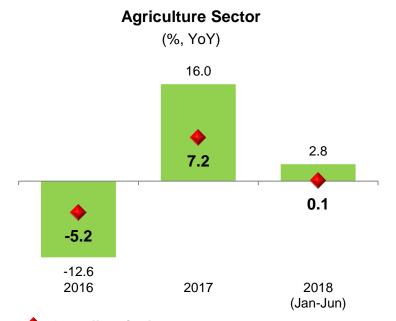


AGRICULTURE sector lacks of short-term catalysts

Agriculture sector (2018F: -0.4%; 2019F: 2.0%)

% share of GDP in 2017: **8.2%**

- High stocks level and declining CPO prices dampened the CPO outlook.
- Supporting factors: Zero export tax on crude palm oil in September 2018; weak ringgit
- Pressing factors: India announced a higher import tariffs at 44% on palm oil; EU had proposed to ban of using palm oil as biodiesel by 2021



Overall agriculture sector

Major sub-sector:



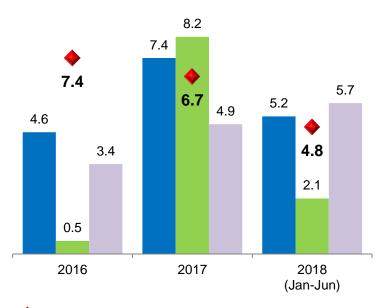
CONSTRUCTION momentum tapers on projects deferment

Construction sector (2018E: 4.5%; 2019F: 4.0%)

% share of GDP in 2017: **4.6%**

- Post-GE14, several mega projects have been reviewed and some have been put on hold.
- Supporting factors: On-going projects (e.g. RAPID, MRT2 and LRT3) will partially offset the impact from deferred projects; some building materials (e.g. cement, sand and iron) were EXEMPTED under SST2.0.
- Pressing factors: The deferment of mega projects (e.g. ECRL, MRT3 and HSR) had been deferred; spillover effects to commercial and residential projects as would require longer time to build and re-marketing.

Construction Sector (%, YoY)



Overall construction sector

Industrial production index components:

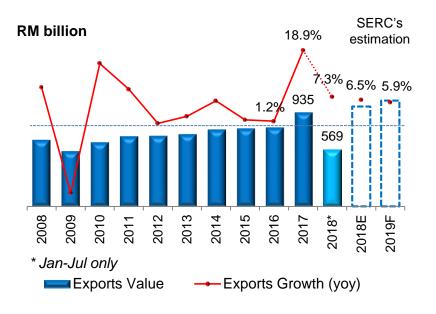
- Production of other articles of concrete, cement and plaster
- Production of basic iron and steel products
 - Production of construction-related products

Source: BNM



Exports in 2H18 and 2019 will be more CHALLENGING

Exports continue growing ...



Broad-based expansion, except CPO & LNG

Major export products in 2018 (Jan-Jul) [% share]	Value (RM billion)	Growth (% yoy)
E&E products [37.5%]	213.5	12.6
Petroleum products [7.8%]	44.4	3.3
Chemical & chemical products [5.6%]	31.8	18.1
Manufactures of metal [4.7%]	27.0	29.8
Machinery, equipment & parts [4.3%]	24.3	1.4
Palm oil [4.1%]	23.1	-14.0
LNG [3.7%]	21.1	-10.2
Crude petroleum [3.6%]	20.7	25.6
Optical & scientific equipment [3.6%]	20.2	12.3

- PRESSING FACTORS: 1) Exceptionally high export levels averaging RM80.6 billion per month in 2H2017; 2) Moderate pace of global semiconductor sales (estimated 12-16% this year vs. 21.6% in 2017); 3) Softer CPO prices; and 4) Trade tensions between the US and its major trading partners.
- Export growth estimates: 6.5% in 2018 and 5.9% for 2019.

Source: DOSM



US-CHINA'S TRADE NUMBERS at a glance



Total Exports in 2017: US\$1,546bn

- To China: US\$130bn (Share: 8.4%)

Total Imports in 2017: US\$2,342bn

- From China: US\$505bn (Share: 21.6%)

Trade deficit with China: US\$375bn



- To US: US\$430bn (Share: 19.0%)

Total Imports in 2017: US\$1,841bn

- From US: US\$154bn (Share: 8.4%)

Trade surplus with US: US\$276bn





Trade war timeline

First Stage

US imposed tariffs on US\$50bn worth of China's imports and retaliated by China with same amount:

- (i) US\$34bn effective on 6 July; and
- (ii) US\$16bn effective on 23 Aug

Second Stage

US announced tariffs of 10% on additional US\$200bn worth of China's products, effective 24 Sep (will up to 25% comes 2019) and retaliated by China at 5-10% tariffs on additional US\$60bn worth of US's products

	US's tariffs on US\$250bn of Chinese goods	China's tariffs on US\$110bn of US's goods
Share of US's total imports	10.7%	
Share of US's total exports		7.1%
Share of imports from China	49.5%	
Share of exports to China)	84.7%
	US's tariffs on	China's tariffs on
	US\$250bn of Chinese goods	US\$110bn of US's goods
Share of China's total imports	·	US\$110bn of
Share of China's total imports Share of China's total exports	·	US\$110bn of US's goods
•	Chinese goods	US\$110bn of US's goods

Source: US Census Bureau; China Customs



TRADE WAR gets ugly; when will it end?

- First, SPILLOVER EFFECTS. Impact felt not only in the countries involved but across the value chains that span several countries;
- Second, ESCALATION. Trade flows would be impaired and global growth would be undermined; and
- Third, UNCERTAINTY. Dampen business confidence and unsettle financial markets.

(Percentage point)	Impact from trade channel		Impact from investment channel
Impact of US tariffs to China	-0.04		
Impact of China tariffs to US		-0.06	
Asia excl. China	-0.01 to	o - 0.03	
Global growth	-0.	02	-0.03
Global trade	-0.	02	-0.04

IMPACT on Malaysia: Estimated a marginal decline of 0.05-0.15 ppt in GDP growth

Source: BNM

Trade disputes ADVERSELY AFFECT THE US MORE THAN CHINA, due to higher value-added sourced domestically (US: ~82%; China: ~64%)

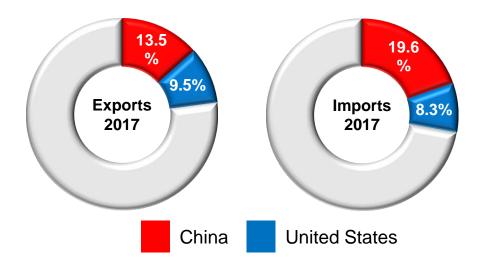
High integration of EA-8 economies in China's production value chain, particularly E&E products (~18% share of value-added)

- → LOWER PROFIT from exporters
- → DETERIORATION in financial conditions
- → DAMPENED business sentiments and investment activities



Malaysia's exports to the US and CHINA

Ranking	Exports	Imports
*;	2	1
	3	3



Major export products to China in 2017	RM mil	% share*
E&E products - Semiconductor	50,386 <i>36,</i> 332	39.9 28.8
Chemical & related products (excl. non-primary plastics)	14,449	11.5
Petroleum products	13,312	10.6
Liquefied Natural Gas	5,798	4.6
Manufactures of metal	4,529	3.6
Palm Oil	4,027	3.2
Total	126,150	

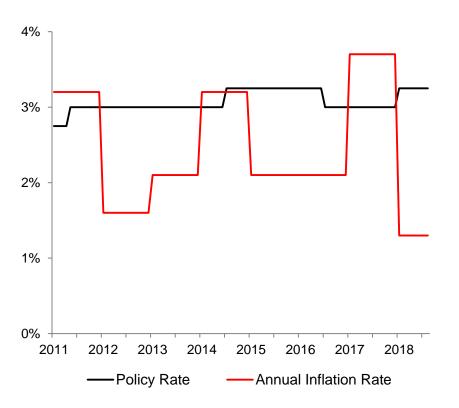
Major export products to United States in 2017	RM mil	% share*
E&E products - Semiconductor	49,148 <i>16,034</i>	55.4 18.1
Optical & scientific equipment	5,562	6.3
Rubber gloves	5,502	6.2
Furniture & parts	3,604	4.1
Machinery, equipment & parts	3,271	3.7
Chemical & related products (excl. non-primary plastics)	3,243	3.7
Total	88,693	

Source: DOS, Malaysia

^{* %} share to total exports to respective country

Monetary policy remains ACCOMMODATIVE (OPR at 3.25% at end-2018; 3.25-3.50% at end-2019)

Overnight policy rate (OPR) vs. Annual inflation rate



- HEADLINE INFLATION: Underlying inflation remains low in 2018 due to transitory effect from 3-mth tax holiday and fuel subsidy. This transitory effect is expected to lapse in 2H19. Inflation outlook hinges on SST and the continued fuel subsidy. (2018E: 1.3%; 2019F: 2.0-2.5%).
- GROWTH OUTLOOK: The hurdle rate for BNM to consider cutting interest rate is when GDP growth slows to around 4.0% (GDP estimates 2018E: 4.8%; 2019F: 4.7%).
- WILL THE WEAK RINGGIT OUTLOOK AND HIGHER US INTEREST RATES constrain Bank Negara Malaysia's monetary policy?

Note: Average inflation rate for 2018 accounts from January to August.

Source: BNM; DOSM



The ringgit is UNDER PRESSURE (end-2018: RM4.15-4.20; 1Q19: 4.05-4.10; 2Q: 4.05-4.10; 3Q: 4.00-4.05; 4Q: 3.95-4.00)

- FACTORS WEIGH ON RINGGIT: New political and policies transition; trade war; capital reversals; surging US Treasury yields; the expectation of further US interest rate hikes; contagion fear in emerging markets and a revived strength of the dollar.
- **COUNTERACT STRENGTH** to support the ringgit: Strong fundamentals, the clarity of policies, the fiscal and debt path as well as the affirmation of Malaysia's sovereign ratings.

Ringgit's movement against the USD

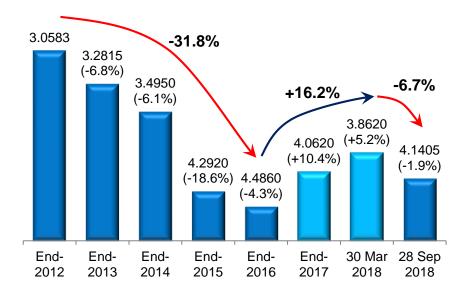
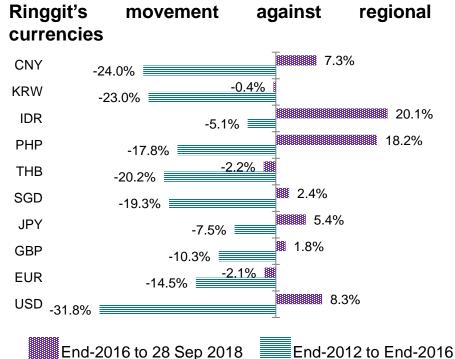


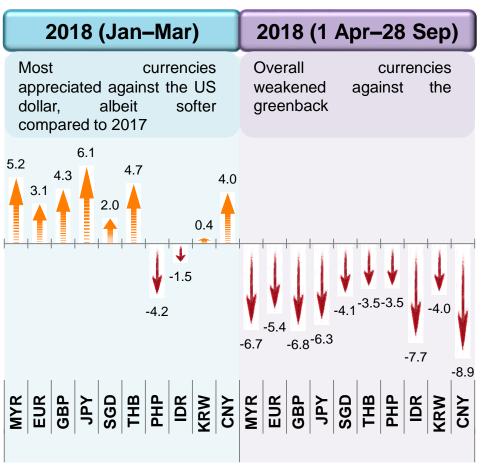
Figure in parenthesis denotes changes from end of previous year Source: BNM (end-period; rates at 12:00)



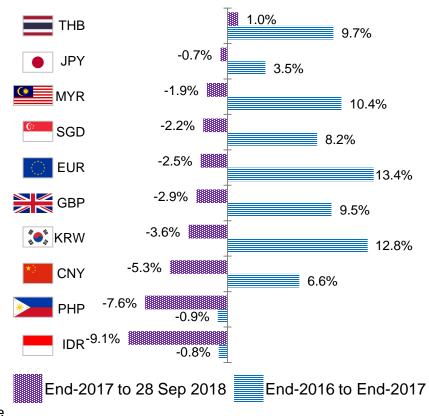
Regional currencies SUCCUMBED to strong US dollar

• The US dollar index strengthened by 6.8% against a basket of foreign currencies (measured in real effective exchange rate (REER)) in the first eight months of 2018.

Major and regional currencies vs. the US dollar* (%)



Ringgit performs better than its regional peers year-to-date



Source: BNM (end-period; rates at 12:00)

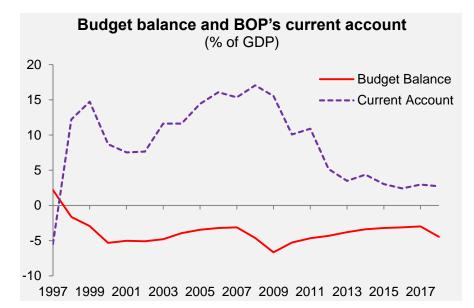


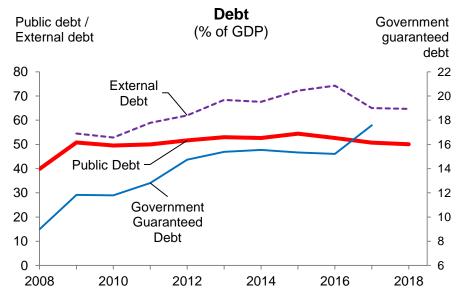
^{*} Calculation based on cross-rate

How Malaysia is 'DIFFERENT' from other emerging economies at risk?

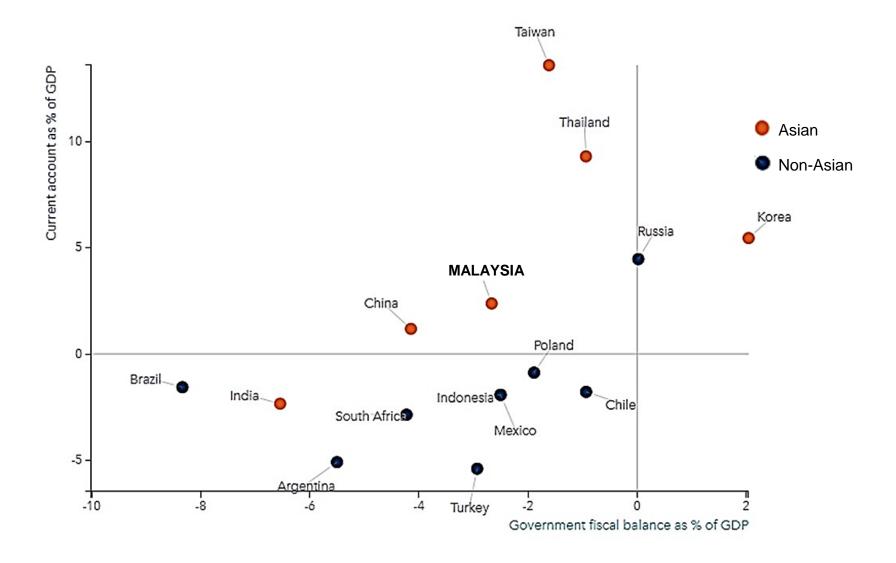
- NOT at risk of TWIN DEFICITS.
- MANAGEABLE EXTERNAL DEBT (end-June: RM936.5 billion or 64.7% of GDP) in terms of CURRENCY AND MATURITY PROFILES.
 - ☐ Close to one-third of total external debt is denominated in ringgit (31.2%)
 - □ 68.8% of total external debt in foreign currencies (End-2017: 51% in USD, 34.3% in ringgit, 2% in Japanese yen and others (12%))
 - □ 52% is medium- to long-term tenure while the balance of 48% is short-term debt
- 0.9x FOREIGN RESERVES TO SHORT-TERM EXTERNAL DEBT COVERAGE.
 Banks and corporations held 75% of Malaysia's external assets totaling RM1.3 trillion at end-2Q18.

Source: BNM





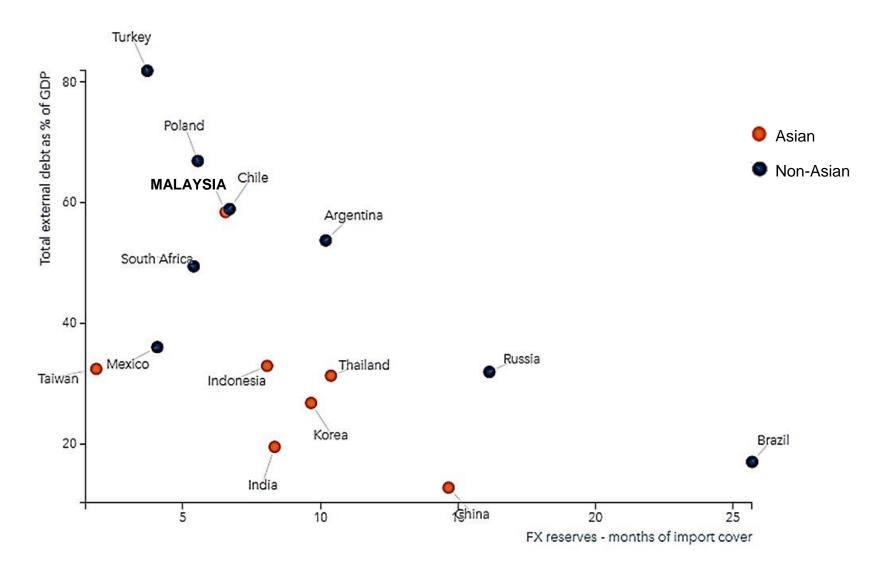
Malaysia's avoidance of TWIN DEFICITS are credit positive



Source: BlackRock Investment Institute (23 Aug 2018)



Manageable EXTERNAL DEBT and strong RESERVES buffer

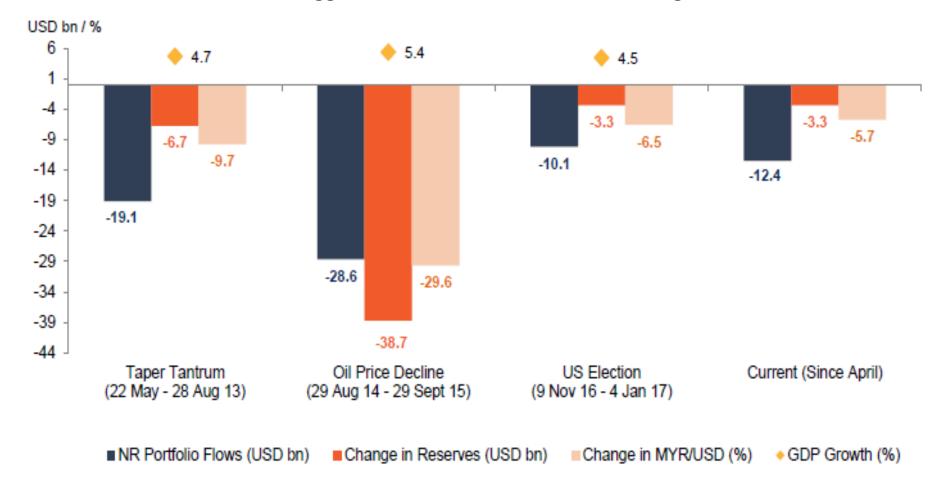


Source: BlackRock Investment Institute (23 Aug 2018)



Malaysia has experienced SIZEABLE capital reversals

NR Portfolio Flows, Reserves, Ringgit Performance and GDP Growth during Outflow Periods



Note: Current data for reserves is at end-July 2018; MYR/USD as at 14 August 2018; NR portfolio flows as at 13 August 2018

Source: BNM



New Malaysia in TRANSITION: Policy PRIORITIES



POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES TRANSITION – adjustment and transition costs; short-term pain for long-term gains if the Government wants to be **LEANER**, **MEANER AND BETTER**.



First, is to RESTORE THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCELERATE INSTITUTIONAL REFORMS for better Government and governance.



Second, FISCAL RECONSTRUCTION to maintain FISCAL DISCIPLINE AND RESPONSIBLE BUDGET as well as debt controls through reduced waste, leakage and weed out corruption.



Third, RESTRUCTURE THE GOVERNMENT (PUBLIC SECTOR, including GLCS) and INSTITUTIONS to restore public trust; to become a more effective and responsive enabler as well as good regulator.

A SMALLER, LESS INTRUSIVE ROLE FOR GOVERNMENT, MUCH MORE CONTAINED PUBLIC SERVICE AND A BIGGER ROLE FOR THE PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS UNDER MALAYSIA INCORPORATED

2019 Budget: LEAN and MEAN but SUPPORTIVE



Putting the **BIG BUDGET NUMBERS** in perspective, it's high time to ask this administration how to make the Federal Budget lean in times of facing slowing economic growth and increasing global risks.



RM1.0873 trillion debt and liabilities or 80.3% of GDP and unbroken 21 consecutive years of fiscal deficit since 1998.



Revenue shortfall of RM23 billion from SST.

Fuel subsidy to stabilise retail price of RON95; cost of living aid (BSH).



GST refunds of RM19.2 billion and the refunds of excess income tax and real property gains tax of RM16.05 billion.



FISCAL RECONSTRUCTION measures:

- ✓ Reduction of Cabinet Ministers' salaries by 10%
- ✓ Termination of the contracts of 17,000 political appointees
- ✓ Sets limit of 10 special officers for each Cabinet member
- ✓ Deferment or cancellation of estimated RM175 billion worth of mega public infrastructure projects (ECRL, MRT3 and HSR)

2019 Budget: TOUGH balancing act



A **RESPONSIBLE YET DISCIPLINE BUDGET** that can smoothen out the impact of expenditure rationalization on the economy.



Some NECESSARY YET UNPOPULAR FISCAL RESTORATION MEASURES and NEW TAXES to help plugging the large financing gap in the Budget.

SPENDING CUTS OR REFORMS in both **UNPRODUCTIVE** and **OVER-INFLATED** cost of operating and development expenditures.

The **ZERO-BASED BUDGETING METHOD** for its ministries and departments to reduce wastage and unnecessary spending.



REVIEW COST OF LIVING AID (BSH) to make them conditional and be prioritized for the truly underserved and vulnerable groups; REVIEW THE FUEL SUBSIDY PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY (household income and engine capacity); HEALTHCARE for B40; SODA TAX to discourage unhealthy diets; some DISPOSABLE OF GOVERNMENT'S ASSETS may be on the cards.

2019 Budget: Proposed measures and initiatives



SPURRING AND SUSTAINING QUALITY PRIVATE INVESTMENT

- ✓ AN INDEPENDENT PANEL review of cost of doing business, streamline regulatory practices and compliance cost
- ✓ E-SERVICES AND E-PROCUREMENT -competitive and transparent tendering
- ✓ **INCLUSIVENESS OF GLC** liberalize 30% of the procurement for non-bumiputra
- ✓ Extension of REINVESTMENT ALLOWANCE; ACCELERATED CAPITAL ALLOWANCE (AUTOMATION)
- ✓ RE-PLOUGH FOREIGN WORKERS' LEVY to an INDUSTRIAL ADJUSTMENT
 FUND to support automation and technology upgrading
- ✓ REVIEW OF APPROVED PERMITS (APs) to avoid rent seeking.



BOOST EXPORTS POTENTIAL AND CAPACITY EXPANSION

- ✓ MARKET DEVELOPMENT GRANT (increase from RM200k to RM500k)
- ✓ Grants for EXPORT PROMOTION PROGRAMS (branding, packaging and international marketing)
- ✓ COST-EFFICIENT transportation, logistics and ports
- ✓ TRADE FACILITATION AND CUSTOM CLEARANCE (simplifying documents, streamlining procedures; market intelligence)
- ✓ R&D FUNDING to encourage original equipment manufacturer (OEM), own design manufacturer (ODM) and original brand manufacturer (OBM).

2019 Budget: Proposed measures and initiatives (cont.)



EASE COST OF LIVING

- ✓ TAX RELIEF for rental; tuition fees for primary and secondary; separate tax relief for EPF contribution and life insurance
- ✓ Discount food card at eateries operated by GLCs
- ✓ Incentivized retailers to adopt best practice (Fair price label)
- ✓ REINTRODUCE RM100 MONTHLY PASS for unlimited LRT and bus rides; peak hour discounts for daily commuters
- ✓ Incentivize "RENT-to-Own" housing programs
- ✓ Strict price surveillance and enforcement



UPSKILLING OF WORKFORCE & JOBS CREATION

- ✓ Incentivise companies to increase female labour participation; FLEXI-WORKING HOURS; CHILD-CARE CENTRE
- ✓ TAX ALLOWANCE for hiring of unemployed youths; more collaboration between learning institutions and private sector
- ✓ Encourage private sector to participate in SL1M
- ✓ Review the EFFECTIVENESS OF TVET
- ✓ Encourage start-up

SECTORS FOCUS



Tourism



Agriculture



E-commerce



Healthcare



IR4.0



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谢谢 THANK YOU

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