

# MUHYIDDIN: GOVT NEEDS BOLD MOVES

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It must be daring in empowering private sector as economic growth engine, says PN chairman

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**B**OLD moves by the government are needed to empower the private sector as the economic growth engine.

Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin (Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia-Pagoh), in debating the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP) in the Dewan Rakyat, said the government was facing challenges in generating revenue to cover increased physical and socioeconomic programmes.

“The country’s fiscal position warrants the government to be more daring in empowering the private sector as the economic growth engine through measures such as the Public-Private Partnership (PPP).

“However, the government must also strengthen its financial management and exercise exist-

ing laws in the harmonisation of the sales and service tax to improve its revenue through tax collection.”

This, he said, could prevent leakages and non-compliance in tax payments that could affect the country’s income.

The Perikatan Nasional chairman said the role of government-linked companies and government-linked investment companies must also be reviewed to ensure that the government’s assets could be optimised in strengthening the country’s infrastructure to reinforce the economic recovery and growth processes.

He said GLCs should invest in high-impact sectors and explore new markets — both domestic and abroad — and refrain from competing with the private sector to allow growth in entrepreneurship in the country.

He added that the government should also focus on economic sectors with huge contributions to the nation’s gross domestic product and provide a conducive ecosystem in bolstering the country’s recovery, while making it an investor-friendly destination.

“Focus should also be given to providing job opportunities in

modern sectors like production and services to ensure talent and human capital development fulfil socioeconomic needs, apart from exploring new jobs, especially those involving gig economy and digital technology,” said Muhyiddin, who is also National Recovery Council chairman.

He said state-level councils should be established to ensure that the implementation of all decisions made could be expedited and the recovery process would benefit the people.

He said the 12MP would kick-start efforts to bring back the prosperity era, with the wellbeing of the people protected.

Sustainable development, he added, would be prioritised and the economic structure transformation would be strengthened.

Muhyiddin said the 12MP must continue measures to inject policy reforms towards a more inclusive approach and build on a strong economic foundation, while ensuring the people’s resilience.

The five-year development blueprint, he said, would also retain a sustainable environment through the use of green technology.

