

## Malaysia will remain vigilant despite Q2 stronger growth -- Azmin

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KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 18 (Bernama) -- Malaysia will continue to be vigilant despite stronger gross domestic product (GDP) growth recorded for the second quarter this year, said Economic Affairs Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Azmin Ali.



He pointed out the GDP data also indicated that Malaysia's economy remained resilient despite being exposed to global uncertainties.

"Malaysia had bucked the regional trend during the second quarter of 2019, as the economy experienced outstanding growth of 4.9 per cent, supported by steady domestic demand, particularly private consumption and a strong recovery in the production of mining and quarrying sector.

"Nevertheless, we remain vigilant against any headwinds to come and will maintain fiscal

discipline even as we do our best to spur growth," he said in his welcoming speech at the opening of the 62nd International Statistical Institute World Statistics Congress, here today.

Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad graced the event and delivered a keynote address.

Mohamed Azmin also highlighted that sound, relevant and timely statistics pave the way for policies and decisions formulation as well as guide the government to realign policies that are misguided or misconceived.

"We cannot overstress the importance of the integrity of data. But even more crucial is integrity in the implementation of policies," he said.

Mohamed Azmin said Malaysia might have the best-formulated policies founded on the most precise statistics, but without integrity, transparency and accountability in implementation, the final objectives would not be achieved.

"Hence, while statistics are the eyes of the country' s administration, good governance strikes at the heart of fulfilling the legitimate expectations of the people," he said.

He also lauded the expertise of the Department of Statistics Malaysia which has been providing technical assistance in core areas to other countries while also benefiting from sharing of experiences and knowledge.

The minister shared statistics on Malaysia' s urban population which grew to 76.2 per cent this year from 28.4 per cent in 1970, while the economy expanded to RM1.36 trillion from RM11.82 billion.

Additionally, the average monthly household income increased at 7.1 per cent per annum to reach RM6,958 in 2016 compared to RM264 in 1970, he added.-- BERNAMA

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