



Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute  
*Dedicated To Creating A Better Society*

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **PRESS RELEASE – HEALTHCARE FORUM 2018**

**Kuala Lumpur, 5 July 2018** – The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI), supported by sponsors Prudential and Sunway Medical Centre, held its annual Healthcare Forum today. The forum, which was themed '*Sustaining Tomorrow's Healthcare, Empowering Today's Consumers*', was held at the InterContinental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur.

The forum opened with a brief welcome from ASLI's Chief Executive Officer, **Tan Sri Dato' Dr Michael Yeoh**. He outlined the objectives of the forum and urged closer collaboration between the public and private sectors, civil society and the Malaysian public.

We were honoured to have **YB Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad**, Minister of Health Malaysia, as the opening keynote speaker. The minister noted that given the efficiency of our healthcare system, Malaysia's health spending has been relatively low compared to other middle and high-income countries. However, more improvements can be made to truly ensure universal health coverage. He proposed three key actions: to ensure financial allocation for the Ministry of Health is increased, introduce *Skim Peduli Sihat* to provide RM500 per year to B40 families to visit private clinics for basic treatment, and pursue closer collaboration between government health centres and private clinics to enhance service coverage.

Key topics covered by the forum include sustaining and improving universal health coverage, healthcare technology, preparing for an aging population and health tourism. Highlights on universal health coverage were to make primary care the thrust of the healthcare delivery system, reducing inequalities and expanding the financing safety net. In terms of healthcare technology, the panel proposed using technological innovations to improve healthcare in remote or rural areas and data security. To prepare for an aging population, suggestions include improving the Private Aged Healthcare Facilities and Services bill and reducing overlaps in family, society, government and private sector support. Lastly, the panel proposed enhancing public private partnership to further drive the growth of health tourism.

The Healthcare Forum is an annual event intended to provide a platform for industry experts, healthcare professionals and associations to address challenges and opportunities in Malaysia's healthcare industry. Key output or takeaways from the forum will be compiled for policy makers and other stakeholders' consideration in determining the future direction of healthcare policy and delivery in Malaysia.

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#### **About Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI)**

The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) is an independent, private and non-for-profit Think Tank headquartered in Malaysia. ASLI is committed to creating a better society and to help organisations enhance their competitiveness, leadership and strategic capabilities through its Public Programmes, Conferences, Publications, Policy Research, Business Councils and CEO peer groups. With over 20 years' experience, ASLI is the super-connector between Government, Business and Civil Society, having managed high-level business partnerships in Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Japan, China, Australia, USA, Canada, Britain, Germany and South Africa. Further information of ASLI is available at [www.asli.com.my](http://www.asli.com.my)

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