

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Dynamic Economic Development and Shared Prosperity: The Kedah Way**

**Centre Stage - Exclusive conversation with  
YAB DATO' SERI UTAMA HAJI MUKHRIZ TUN MAHATHIR, Chief Minister of Kedah**

**Bandar Sunway, 13 January 2020** - The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI) in partnership with the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia (JCI) organised Centre Stage - Exclusive conversation with YAB Dato' Seri Utama Haji Mukhriz Tun Mahathir, Chief Minister of Kedah in Sunway University. Themed, "Dynamic Economic Development and Shared Prosperity: The Kedah Way", the exclusive conversation explored the Chief Minister's vision or Kedah towards the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030. The exclusive conversation was moderated by Professor Dato' Dr. Woo Wing Thye, President of the Jeffrey Cheah Institute on Southeast Asia (JCI).

Kedah is the oldest state in Malaysia and was a commercial centre for traders from various countries especially India and China. Famed for being the main rice producer for the country, Kedah earned the name - *Jelapang Padi* or rice bowl of Malaysia due to its strength in agriculture. Kedah's major economic generators are in services, manufacturing and agriculture sectors.

Gearing well towards Shared Prosperity Vision 2030, the Kedah state government is expected to rake in revenue of RM701.94 million in 2020. To achieving this, the state has announced a number of projects in an effort to uplift its economy and create new jobs. Intensifying efforts to diversify its economy through high-tech industrial development through the Kulim High Tech Park, Kedah Rubber City, Kedah Science and Technology Park and Bukit Kayu Hitam Special Border Economic Zone are the other key industrial areas being developed as well. In the recent announcement, the state government expressed its intention to build more telecommunication towers in rural and suburban areas.

The **Centre Stage**, is one of ASLI signature engagement platforms, launched in October 2019.

ASLI **Centre Stage** is designed with the intention of inviting the authorities and influencers to provide timely, focussed, factual and in-depth discourse on pertinent and current issues that are facing the public. With this 'Centre Stage', ASLI aims to respond immediately to current issues that are critical and urgent, and play host so as to elevate the attention of the relevant current issues to the rightful decision makers for the ultimate good of the *rakyat*.

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

The Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute or in short "ASLI" is Malaysia's leading independent, nonpartisan and not-for-profit think-tank. Since its establishment in 1993, ASLI has established a renowned reputation as the definitive link between the public sector, the private sector, academia and civil society in pursuit of its mission of creating a better society. ASLI is owned and governed by the Jeffrey Cheah Foundation (JCF). We curate thought-provoking and intellectual dialogues in an effort to bring change in public policies for the betterment of society. We provide strategic analysis and advise on critical issues impacting the nation and beyond. In the wider Asia Pacific region, we capitalise on our influential network to harness best practices and connect strategic partners across APAC on highest-value business investment and trade opportunities to foster bilateral relations and economic growth.

Further information of ASLI is available at [www.asli.com.my](http://www.asli.com.my)