

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Breaking the Youth's Income Ceiling**

**CENTRE STAGE: BUDGET 2020 TOWN HALL**

**Bandar Sunway, 12 October 2019** – The Asian Strategy & Leadership Institute (ASLI), in collaboration with the Higher Education Youth Association (HEYA) organised the Centre Stage: Budget 2020 Town Hall today at the Sunway University. The town hall was graced with the presence of YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, Member of Parliament for Jeli and Chairman of Parliamentary Select Committee on Budget and YB Dr Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen, Member of Parliament for Bandar Kuching and Member of Parliamentary Select Committee on Budget.

Themed, "Breaking the Youth's Income Ceiling", the town hall was aimed at understanding Budget 2020 especially deliberating the budget's embedded concept of Shared Prosperity, enabling awareness cultivation among the youth on Malaysia's socio-economic projection as well as forming their understanding on the impact that the current economic environment has towards their future career or entrepreneurial undertakings.

The first half of the town hall saw Post Budget 2020 Briefing Presentations by Mr. Tan Zhai Gen, a Research Associate from the Khazanah Research Institute and Mr Muhammad Afiq Ismaizam, a Research Manager at ASLI Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS). YB Dr. Kelvin Yii Lee Wuen, a Member of Parliament for Bandar Kuching and a Member of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Budget then delivered a speech comprising his reflections of the Budget 2020 presented the day before followed by a dialogue session moderated by Mr Danesh Chandran, Head of ASLI Centre for Public Policy Studies.

Meanwhile, the second half of the town hall saw a special presentation on the Higher Education Reform Updates by Mr. Ooi Tze Howe, President of the Higher Education Youth Association (HEYA) followed by an exclusive presentation on the Malaysian Education Key Policy Recommendations Presentation delivered by Mr Danesh Chandran. The town hall concluded with an exclusive conversation with YB Dato' Sri Mustapa Mohamed, a Member of Parliament for Jeli and the Chairman of Parliamentary Select Committee on Budget moderated by Ms Melissa Ong, Chief Executive Officer of ASLI.

**ASLI Centre Stage** is one of ASLI newest signature engagement platforms 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, non-partisan 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)

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