

## **Fireside Chat with YB Senator Dato' Sri Idris Jala**

The Kuala Lumpur Business Club (KLBC) hosted a Fireside Chat on “The Economic Transformation Programme: What’s In It For Me?” with YB Senator Dato’ Sri Idris Jala, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department and CEO, Performance Management and Delivery Unit (PEMANDU) on 31 January 2011 at Hilton Kuala Lumpur.

KLBC President Datuk Rohana Tan Sri Mahmood welcomed members and guests to the event and introduced the Honourable Minister. The Minister then took the podium and proceeded with his presentation entitled “Transforming Malaysia”. He began with the four strategic thrusts introduced by our Prime Minister, namely the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11th Malaysia Plans as the basis or floor of a house, the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and the Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) being the two pillars and the 1Malaysia Concept as the roof of the house.

The first part of the presentation was on the GTP where six National Key Result Areas (NKRAs) based on what the rakyat wanted, were introduced. The Minister said that the GTP was already delivering results in 12 months from January to December 2010.

The second part of the presentation was on the ETP where the Minister put it simply by saying that “ETP equates to making Malaysia a rich country, for everyone and for a long time”. Under ETP, the Government is aiming for Malaysia to become a high-income nation that is both inclusive and sustainable by 2020. A target of USD15,000 or RM48,000 in Gross National Income (GNI) per capita has been set.

The Minister then talked about the 12 National Key Economic Areas (NKEAs) as the drivers of ETP and the Strategic Reform Initiatives (SRIs) as its enablers. To transform the economy, we need to focus on the 12 NKEAs comprising 11 economic sectors and Greater KL/Klang Valley. The Minister also spoke about the NKEA labs, 131 Entry Point Projects (EPPs) and 60 business opportunities.

He further gave some examples of EPPs which included the Mass Rapid Transport (MRT), River of Life, High-Speed Rail, Multinational Corporation (MNC) Attraction, Talent Attraction and Greener KL. The Minister ended his presentation by highlighting on the strong commitment from the Prime Minister and Cabinet Ministers to deliver their promises to the rakyat.

KLBC Board Member, Dato’ Johan Raslan then moderated the Question and Answer session where participants took the opportunity to ask various questions on ETP. Some of the key issues discussed during the session were as follows:

- To implement ETP, the government is going all out to weed out corruption and any person can report to the authority of anyone who is involved in corruption. The Whistleblower Protection Act, a key legislative initiative to aggressively tackle corruption is in place to encourage informers to expose corrupt practices and other misconducts. The integrity part of ETP is also being introduced to the EPPs where the

Transparency International (TI) module will be implemented, as part of a holistic approach to counter corruption.

- Based on the Transparency International Global Corruption Barometer 2010, there was a significant improvement on how corruption in the country was tackled. With the implementation of the TI module, three types of corruption will be addressed, namely procurement corruption, regulatory corruption and political funding corruption. If previously it took two years for an EPP project to be approved, now by working with the Registrar of Societies, project approval will be granted within six months.
- On the question on depleting oil resources, new incentives are being introduced under Petronas to encourage players within the oil and gas industry to set up their regional hubs here. As part of its strategy, Petronas is also intensifying its exploration activities in Malaysia where gas reserves are being explored in “greenfield” projects. Petronas is also looking at ventures outside the country and exploring an alternative biofuel.
- One of the key challenges in implementing ETP is the gap in human capital. To increase the talent pool, Talent Corporation has been set up to woo Malaysians abroad to come home, to contribute towards the development of the country. The Talent Corporation will identify shortages in key sectors and attract and retain the necessary skilled human capital, either Malaysians or foreigners.
- There is a strong political will to deliver and to ensure the success of the ETP. Six labs are being scheduled from 21 February to end of March on public service delivery transformation where the government will look at which sectors of business it should exit. An Annual Report on ETP will be published end of March 2011.
- Strong commitment comes from top leadership with the involvement of the Honourable Prime Minister, YAB Dato’ Sri Najib Tun Abdul Razak and Cabinet Ministers. Either the Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister chairs the monthly steering committee meetings related to ETP. The targets and KPIs are incorporated in all the Ministers’ Scorecards which are assessed bi-annually. The government has no choice and needs to deliver its promises to the rakyat.

The Q&A session was ensued by closing remarks by KLBC Deputy President, Tengku Dato’ Zafrul Tengku Aziz.

The Fireside Chat was attended by over 100 participants comprising KLBC members and invited guests.

