

# Brief note on Malaysian economy

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as encapsulated in the three key national policy frameworks that are the New Economic Policy (NEP), 1971-1990, the National Development Policy (NDP), 1991-2000; the National Vision Policy (NVP), 2001-2010 and New Economy Model (NEM), 2011-2020. Each of these policy frameworks was based on a profound understanding of the needs and challenges of the time, as well as the responses required for the nation. Equally important, these frameworks captured the collective aspirations of the country. These aspirations culminated in the launch of Vision

2020 in 1991, outlining the aim of attaining developed nation status by the year 2020. Malaysia is now at the last phase of its journey towards 2020. In many respects, the core NEP, NDP, NVP and NEM objectives of national unity, growth and social equity remain. However, the circumstances and environment in which the country operates have changed significantly.

The creation of a truly developed Malaysian society must be premised not only on a resilient and competitive economy, but also on the basis of equity and inclusion for all groups. While economic growth and dynamism must be vigorously pursued, gross disparities in economic opportunities and livelihoods must not be allowed to persist and to jeopardise the very foundations of national development.

Malaysia started as an economy that is export based, or known as a laissez-faire economy. The post-independence economy focused on the economic and rural development up to the year 1970 before the New Economic Policy was introduced. The New Economic Policy (NEP) (1971-1990) underscored the importance of achieving socio-economic goals alongside pursuing economic growth objectives as a way of creating harmony and unity in a nation with many eth-

nic and religious groups. The overriding goal of this policy was national unity. To achieve this goal, two major strategies were adopted:

- i) To reduce absolute poverty irrespective of race through raising income levels and increasing employment opportunities for all Malaysians; and
- ii) To restructure society to correct economic imbalances so as to reduce and eventually eliminate the identification of race with economic function.

An equally critical aspect of the NEP was that it was premised upon a rapidly growing economy so as to provide more economic opportunities for the poor and other disadvantaged groups to enable them to move out of poverty and to participate in the mainstream economic activities. However, NEP ensured that distribution did not take place from the reallocation of existing wealth but from expanding and new sources of wealth.

After the NEP, the National Development Policy (NDP) was drawn to set the pace to enable Malaysia to become a fully developed nation by the year 2020 not only economically but also in all other aspects. The objective of the NDP is to attain a balanced development in order to establish a more united and just society.

The NDP was built upon the thrust of the NEP in eradicating poverty and restructuring society with additional critical aspects. These aspects include promoting human resource development by creating a productive and disciplined labour force and developing the necessary skills; making science and technology an integral component of socioeconomic planning and development; and focusing on protection of environment and ecology.

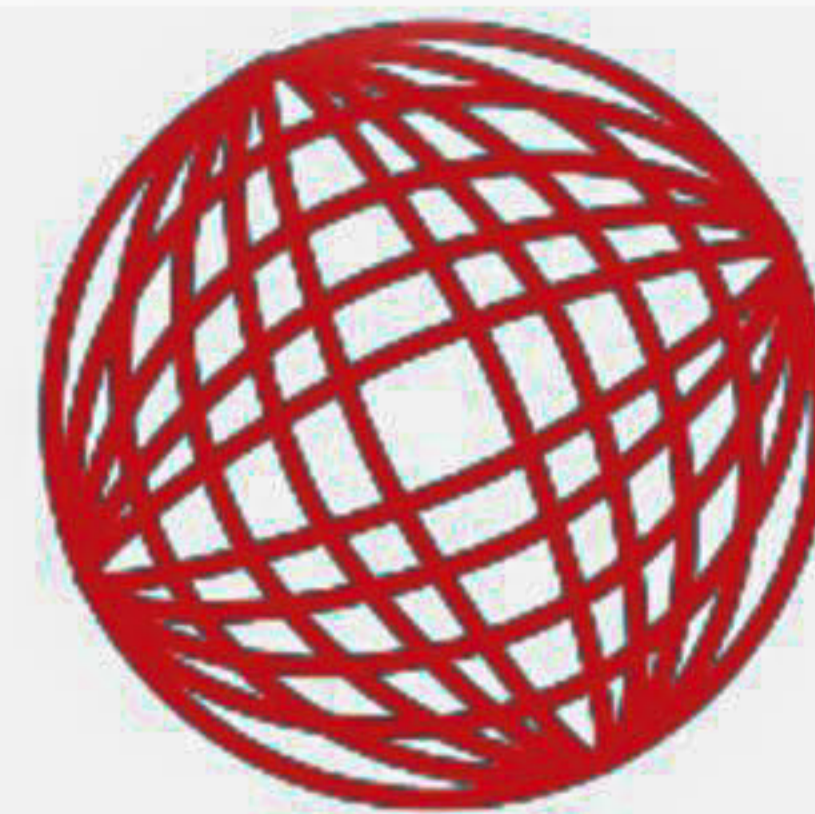
Post NDP, the National Vision Policy (NVP) aimed to build a resilient and competitive nation. NVP introduced new policy dimensions which includes developing Malaysia into a knowledge-based society; generating endogenously-driven growth through

strengthening domestic investment and developing indigenous capability; increasing the dynamism of key sectors through greater infusion of knowledge; addressing pockets of poverty as well as increasing the income and quality of life of those in the lowest income quantile; Today the population has become increasingly urbanized and educated while the middle income group has expanded. The mean household income in 1970 was only RM264 per month, with 27% of households earning below RM100 per month and a further 31% earning between RM100 to RM200 per month. The average monthly income for all households increased from RM264 in

1970 to RM1,167 by 1990, reflecting a real rate of growth of 7.7% per annum. The success of

Malaysia's poverty eradication programmes is evident from the sharp decline in the incidence of poverty, which decreased from 49.3% in 1970 to 1.7% in 2012. The proportion of the lower income group was reduced to 23% in 2012 as compared to almost 99% in 1970. Three decades of outstanding performance, permitting Malaysia to provide for the health and education of its people, largely eradicate poverty, build a world-class infrastructure and become a major exporter globally. Our people are wealthier and better educated. They live longer, travel more and have greater access to modern technologies than any previous generation.

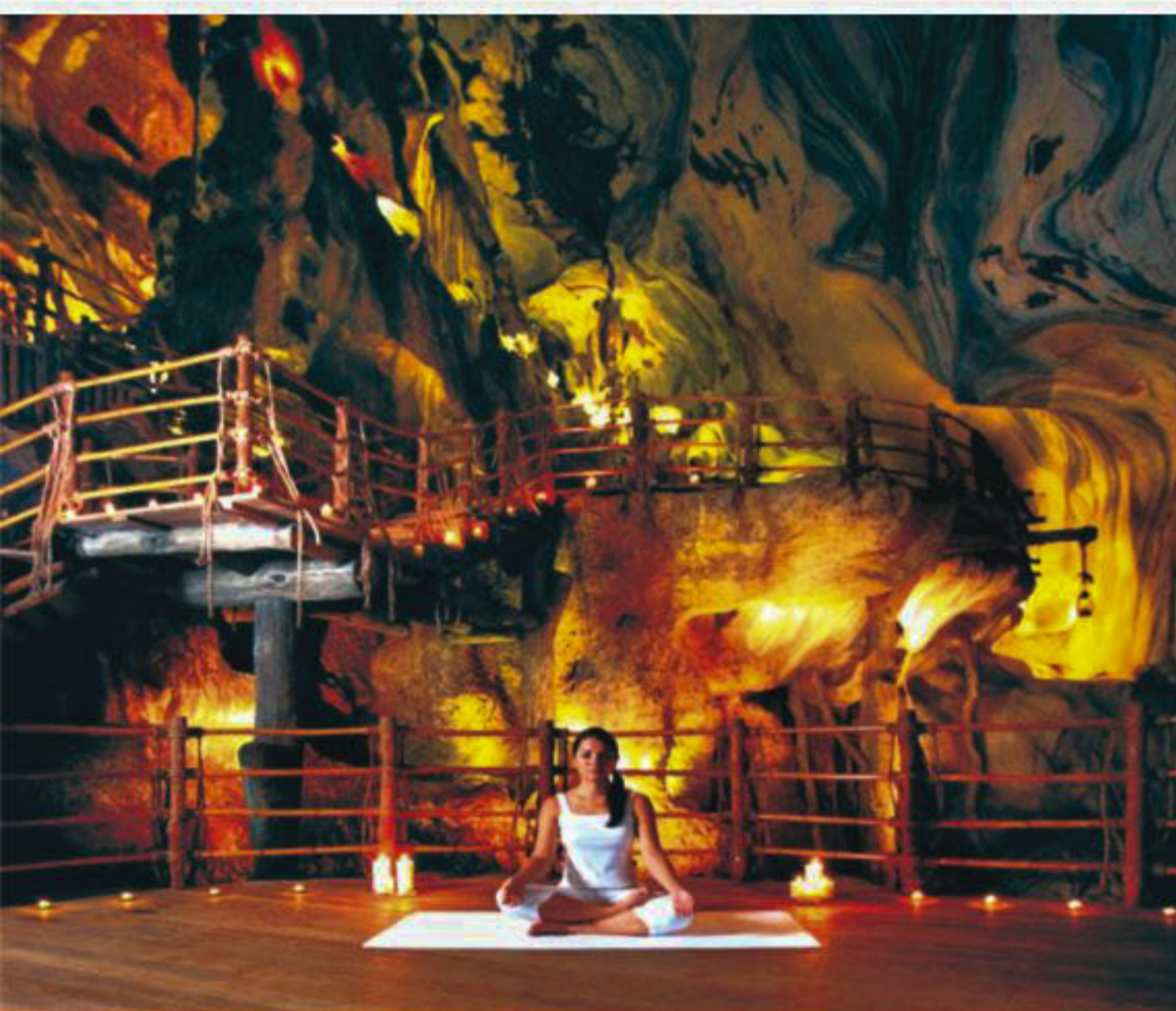
Amid changes in the external environment, many of the policies and strategies used to achieve the current state of development are now inadequate to take Malaysia to the next stage. Thus, under the NEM, the Government has crafted a blueprint to move the country towards its next stage of development that is based on four key pillars. The first pillar is embodied in the principles of 1Malaysia, People First, Performance Now meant to unite all Malaysians who collectively represent the key stakeholder of the Government. The second pillar is



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the Government Transformation Programme (GTP) which will deliver the outcomes defined under the National Key Result Areas (NKRAs). The third critical pillar will be the New Economic Model (NEM) resulting from an ambitious Economic Transformation Programme (ETP) meant to transform Malaysia by 2020 into a developed and competitive economy whose people enjoy a high quality of life and high level of income from growth. The fourth pillar is the 10<sup>th</sup> Malaysia Plan 2011-2015 (10MP) which will represent the first policy operationalisation of both the Government and economic transformation programmes.

# Malaysia burgeoning as a healthcare travel destination



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9.00am to 6.00pm Malaysian time (GMT+8 hours) supporting calls in English, Bahasa Malaysia, Bahasa Indonesia and Mandarin languages. It also supports e-mail enquiries in Arabic, Japanese, Bengali, English, Bahasa Malaysia, Bahasa Indonesia and Mandarin.

**MHTC concierge and lounge:** MHTC Concierge and Lounge is located at the Gate 5 and Gate 8 (respectively) of the Arrival Hall at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA). The MHTC Concierge disseminates healthcare services information; and facilitates information about transport, accommodation and travel in Malaysia. The MHTC Lounge complements the MHTC Concierge by way of facilitating a health tourist's arrival in Malaysia the moment he or she touches down at the KLIA. Health tourists may have a rest at the MHTC Lounge while waiting for the arrangement and/ or pick-up service from the respective medical providers.

**Interactive websites:** (Prospective) medical tourists can obtain information on seeking healthcare in Malaysia including medical treatment, accommodation and travel at 3 websites:

[www.medicaltourism.com.my](http://www.medicaltourism.com.my)  
[www.mhtc.org.my](http://www.mhtc.org.my)  
[www.healthtravelexpo.com](http://www.healthtravelexpo.com)

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**Malaysian Mission offices overseas:** Information on healthcare in Malaysia can also be obtained from Malaysia mission offices overseas including Embassies, Consulate General offices, High Commissioner offices, Tourism Malaysia, MATRADE and MIDA.



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