

Poverty Alleviation - Championing The SDG's To Achieve The 2030 Agenda

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• Malaysia has since 1970s subscribed to the inclusive development agenda to ensure that all Malaysians, irrespective of gender, ethnicity, socio-economic status and geographic location, benefit from the country's development.
- Beginning with the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1970 that targeted to eradicate poverty and restructure imbalance in the society, the inclusive development agenda was renewed with the unveiling of the New Economic Model (NEM) in 2010.
- To realise Malaysia's vision of becoming an advanced country by 2020, NEM has set three new development goals – high income, inclusiveness and sustainability. This has led to even stronger implementation of inclusive development in the 10MP and the 11MP. Interestingly, NEM was ahead of the SDG in its inclusive and sustainable development drive.
- In addressing poverty, a multitude of initiatives have been taken to increase income and quality of life of the poor which include income generating activities, capacity building and enhancement, integrated entrepreneurship support, investment schemes, social safety net as well as provision of infrastructure and basic amenities.
- Measures also include promoting investment into the rural and less developed areas as well as opening up new growth centres to create jobs and business opportunities.

- In 1970, the incidence of absolute poverty in Malaysia was 49.3%. Malaysia was considered among the fastest countries to realise the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) of halving poverty when its incidence of poverty reduced from 16.5% in 1990 to 8.5% in 2000, well before the target year of 2015.
- The poverty incidence reduced further in 2014 to 0.6% and is expected to continue declining by 2020. Hard core poverty was totally eradicated during the 10MP period. Therefore, in general, I can proudly say that absolute poverty is no longer a pertinent issue in Malaysia.
- Nevertheless, Malaysia will not rest on its laurels. Measurement of poverty has now been expanded beyond income. In the 11MP, Malaysia has introduced its version of Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) to take into account other dimensions of poverty namely education, health and quality of life.
- Apart from poverty, Malaysia has done quite well too in respect of meeting the basic needs of its populace. Supply of shelter is generally adequate, with 76.1% of the households owning their own houses in 2014. Even a majority of the poor households (75.3%) owned houses.
- In terms of basic amenities, Malaysia has achieved almost 100% electricity coverage throughout the country in 2014, with electricity access in rural areas already reaching 98% level. A total of 95% of the population already enjoyed clean and treated water supply while 70% of households had access to broadband internet.

- Moving forward, Malaysia is committed to further uplifting the incomes and quality of life of the bottom 40 percent households to make sure they benefit from and become partners to the development. The 11MP is in its implementation stage and we strongly hope that we will successfully hit our 2020 targets and simultaneously the SDG's 2030 goal to end poverty in all its forms much earlier.

Thank you.

