

AMCHAM: Rapid deployment of 5G will allow Malaysia to keep pace with regional competition

KUALA LUMPUR, 2 MARCH - Connectivity is growing in importance for businesses in all sectors. The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) supports efforts by the government to address the issue of digital connectivity through initiatives like JENDELA and MyDIGITAL, with the goal of improving and enhancing development across Malaysia. Ensuring that there is fair, equitable, and competitive access to the nation's digital infrastructure will help bridge the digital divide that impacts growth rates across different regions in the country.

AMCHAM supports a plan of action that is transparent, competitive, and addresses information security needs, including data integrity, confidentiality, and availability. These essential elements will benefit businesses and drive an outcome that is of the most benefit to the *rakyat*. 5G will be with us for many years to come. As a foundational technology, it needs to be reliable, robust, and secure.

Malaysia has built up a reputation as a preferred destination of foreign direct investment over the past five decades. This reputation is anchored on the track record of business-friendly policy-making, a judiciary that enforces the sanctity of contracts, and an eager and talented workforce continuously looking to improve their socio-economic standing.

Therefore, any decision that is made by the government on the issue of 5G rollouts, be it SWN, DWN, MWN, or any other model has to take into account the following: firstly, the progress and investments that have already been made in the implementation of the rollout plan.

Secondly, the need to ensure that there is effective communication to the public and other stakeholders along with extensive consultation, transparency, and deliberation of issues impacting the rollout. And lastly, to ensure an effective model with extensive coverage to all citizens that will encourage greater foreign and domestic investment and unlock the full potential of Malaysia for future success.

Investors, including our members, are keenly aware that any delay in the implementation of 5G in Malaysia will not only impact the country's National Investment Aspirations (NIA) but could also have implications for the country's competitive standing, especially among neighboring countries.

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ABOUT AMCHAM MALAYSIA

The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) was founded in 1978 as an international, non-profit, private-sector business association. It comprises more than 1200 members representing about 280 American, Malaysian and other international companies with strong ties to American business. The Chamber is a member of the AmChams of Asia Pacific.

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