
**PRESS STATEMENT
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Wednesday, 7 April 2021

AMCHAM urges the reinstatement of the cabotage exemption of submarine cable repair vessels

KUALA LUMPUR, 7 APRIL - The American Malaysian Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) urges the Malaysian government to reinstate the cabotage exemption of submarine cable repair vessels to accelerate Malaysia's progression towards becoming a digitally-enabled and technology-driven high income nation by 2030, in line with the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDIGITAL).

Regulatory barriers that do not support efficient management of digital infrastructure is worrisome for investors at a particularly critical time when Malaysia seeks to compete for digital infrastructure investments and drive economic recovery.

AMCHAM's membership includes not only cable investors but a wide range of businesses that are investing heavily in digital innovation and digital talent. These companies depend on fast and reliable internet connectivity, and any regulatory impediment that delays the repair of critical internet infrastructure can cause considerable business disruption. Further, the revocation of the exemption is likely to impede Malaysia's digital economy from reaching its full potential, which would mean a lost opportunity for incremental productivity, job creation and skill development.

Siobhan Das, CEO of AMCHAM, says the Chamber is ready to support the Government's efforts in reviewing its legislative and regulatory measures relating to digital infrastructure under the MyDIGITAL initiative, by facilitating substantive industry consultation and proposing solutions that support the realisation of the Government's objectives.

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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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