PRESS RELEASE

MOF Announces Appointments of Chairman, Board and CEO of Digital Nasional Berhad for 5G Deployment

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MINISTRY OF FINANCE

Following the announcement on Malaysia's digital blueprint, MyDigital by the Prime Minister, YAB Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin on 18 February 2021, and the follow-up announcement by the Malaysian Communications and Multimedia Commission on 5G deployment in Malaysia, the Ministry of Finance is pleased to announce the following appointments for Digital Nasional Berhad (DNB), the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) established for this purpose:

Chairman	–	Dato' Asri Hamidon, Chief Secretary of Treasury, Ministry of Finance
Board Members	–	Datuk Seri Dr. Yusof Ismail, Director-General Malaysia Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU), Prime Minister's Department
	–	Dato' Mohamed Sharil Tarmizi

	–	Dato' Muthanna Abdullah
Chief Executive Officer	–	Mr. Augustus Ralph Marshall

The combination of these professional appointees with specialisation in sectors such as public finance, telco regulatory, telecommunications, information technology and legal provides the right mix of skills and experience to build, own and manage Malaysia's 5G network for nationwide commercial rollout. Members of DNB's senior management team will be announced in due course.

DNB will offer 5G services via a wholesale model that is regulated to ensure better transparency and implementation. It will be managed based on the appropriate governance framework, an open tender process for the 5G infrastructure development, and global best practices to ensure proper controls. All telecommunications service providers will have open, fair and equal access in obtaining wholesale 5G network services for the development of retail services based on 5G technology.

Tengku Datuk Seri Utama Zafrul Aziz, the Minister of Finance said, "It is imperative that our 5G network is deployed quickly, systematically and professionally to accelerate our growth initiatives through MyDigital, which aims at ensuring socio-economic progress and inclusivity for all Malaysians. Playing catch-up is not an option as the world increasingly embraces technology such as artificial intelligence, autonomous vehicles, robotics, the Internet of Things, cloud computing and digital twin to create fresh opportunities for future growth. Congratulations to the appointees, who collectivey offer the right mix of talent and experience to ensure equitable access to 5G capabilities, for the rakyat and businesses."

"The Government looks forward to working closely with the private sector players in the domestic telco industry, to help Malaysia realise its 5G aspirations. While DNB focuses on 5G infrastructure investments, the private sector players can focus on developing better products and services, without being saddled by heavy and duplicative capital expenditure. This is a win-win situation for all parties, including the telco players, businesses and consumers, as we focus our efforts on being 5G-ready by end-2021," added Tengku Zafrul.

5G technology is a strategic digital asset that requires adequate resources for the appropriate infrastructure and distribution framework to be established. The investment in 5G roll out is a game-changing and fundamental infrastructure to accelerate innovation and build a robust, enabling digital ecosystem. As such, public ownership with a professionally-run management team is the right formula to ensure not just sufficient development expenditure, but also to reduce the current digital gap, and to realise the aspirations of the Government's Shared Prosperity Vision 2030.

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1 March 2021

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