

Press Release
For Immediate Release

MDEC'S CEO IN WORLD'S 50 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE REVOLUTIONISING GOVERNANCE

CYBERJAYA, 10 December, 2020: The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC), Surina Shukri, has been named among the **World's 50 Most Influential People Revolutionising Governance** in the inaugural **Agile 50** list – a joint initiative by [Apolitical](#) and the [World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Agile Governance](#).

The Agile 50 list was created from over 300 nominations from governments, international organisations, NGOs and companies across the globe, from Japan to Brazil. It seeks to shine a spotlight on the crucial work performed by those driving the widespread digital transformation of government.

This list seeks to laud those politicians, civil servants and entrepreneurs driving agility in governments all around the world. It recognises both high-profile icons and shines light on the unsung heroes whose work is indispensable in transforming government to serve all in these testing times.

Surina Shukri joined MDEC in January 2019 and continues to lead MDEC, a developmental agency, mandated to lead Malaysia's digital economy on the back of three strategic pillars, namely digitally skilled Malaysians, digitally powered businesses and digital investments.

Over her tenure thus far, Surina has also accomplished the following successes under various MDEC programmes:

- **eUsahawan**, a digital entrepreneurship programme that helps on-board micro enterprises onto various e-commerce platforms, saw 41,789 entrepreneurs trained with a total sales value of RM65.4 million generated, from Jan-June 2020.
- **#MyDigitalMaker** is an initiative that encourages and provides opportunities for students to become digital creators, producers and innovators. The initiative is also in collaboration with the Ministry of Education Malaysia to train teachers on programming, micro controller and computational skills. To date, 1.3 million students and 88,000 teachers have been empowered with digital skills. For the period Jan-June 2020, 2,000 teachers were trained for computational thinking skills certification and Science Teaching Certificate.
- **Digital Ninja** is another leadership and digital skills enhancement programme that hones the youths' innate know-how, provides exposure and inspires change-makers. As of 2019, 20 new projects were conceptualised and developed involving 407 students nationwide.



- To prepare graduates, we launched the **Premier Digital Tech Institutions (PDTI)** in August 2017, an initiative we started in recognition of 16 top institutions of higher learning that can deliver first-class training in digital technology.
- In June 2019, we also began a campaign called **Empowering Women in Cyber Risk Management**, a reskilling programme to encourage women to return to the workforce. 26 women were trained in 7 different sessions which ultimately saw 42% return to the workforce.
- **eRezeki** is another programme designed to open-up opportunities for Malaysians to leverage their idle time, under-utilised physical assets or certain knowledge and skills via crowdsourcing and sharing economy platforms. Launched in June 2015, 333,130 participants (till end 2019) have benefited from this initiative and have reported earning an additional income. From Jan-June 2020, 585,662 have gained additional digital skillsets to earn supplementary income.
- Leveraging MDEC's existing **Global Online Workforce (GLOW)** program which assists those in need of crowdsourcing platforms to generate digital revenue, from January to June this year, the programme generated an income totalling RM190.8 million.
- Launched in July 2017, **Go-eCommerce** is an online learning platform with an internationally recognised curriculum for beginner, intermediate learners and advanced entrepreneurs. From Jan-June 2020, a total of 112, 803 participants from across the country benefited from this initiative. Under the ambit of this platform, we also launched Project DESA which encouraged rural-based merchants to shift their businesses online and continues to drive cross-border trade for all merchants.
- SMEs were also advised to look beyond Malaysia, in search of new markets to expand into. Through the **Digital Free Trade Zone**, we enabled 4,367 SMEs to engage in cross-border e-commerce. In a similar vein, The **Global Acceleration & Innovation Network (GAIN)** helped grow 130 local digital companies into global players.
- In May 2020, we organised **e-Dagang Expo (eDX)** a week-long virtual event that engaged over 500,000 micro-entrepreneurs and SMEs looking to take their offline operations to the online space. Partnering with global e-commerce giants, we aimed to address the urgent needs of MSMEs to adopt e-commerce to better mitigate the immediate impact of COVID-19 and beyond.
- At the same time, we also launched **eBerkat**, a platform to increase SME and B40 awareness and access to SLIP (Savings, Lending, Investment, Payment) digital financial services and instruments. We onboarded 2,000 MSMEs and 13% successfully secured funding.



- In addition, investments have been seen in the digital sector in Malaysia, from January to June 2020 across multiple initiatives such as **National IoT Framework** (RM141.4 million), **National Big Data Analytics Framework** (RM264.4 million), **The Global Testbed Initiative** (RM124.5 million).

“It is an honour to be a part of the Agile 50 list. Agile policy development is vital in in the ASEAN region and beyond unleash the full potential of the Fourth Industrial Revolution across the digital content sector, digital financing, start-up space, e-commerce, automation and robotics, anything powered via the Internet of Things. MDEC is poised to prepare Malaysians for an evolving economy, particularly as we accelerate Malaysia’s digital society towards shared prosperity and Malaysia 5.0.

2020 may have presented unprecedented challenges, but I believe 2021 is the year of execution which can coalesce expertise from business and government to drive regulatory reform that triggers innovation and rekindles economic growth!”, commented Shukri.

Previous lists by Apolitical have been featured in press around the world and shared by leaders such as Justin Trudeau, Julia Gillard, leaders from the OECD, UN and World Bank.

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About Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC)

Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC) is a government agency under the purview of the Ministry of Communications and Multimedia Malaysia entrusted to lead Malaysia's digital economy forward.

Incorporated in 1996 to oversee the development of the MSC Malaysia initiative, MDEC's primary mandate today is to accelerate the growth of digitally-skilled Malaysians, digitally-powered businesses and digital investments in Malaysia. MDEC is focused on creating inclusive, high-quality growth through the nationwide digitalisation initiatives that are in line with the Government’s Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 and firmly establishing Malaysia as the Heart of Digital ASEAN.

#LetsBuildTogether #DigitalMalaysiaForward

To find out more about MDEC’s Digital Economy initiatives, please visit us at www.mdec.my or follow us on:

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MyMDEC/>

Twitter: @mymdec



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About the World Economic Forum's Global Future Council on Agile Governance: The Global Future Council on Agile Governance brings together leading experts from business and government to drive regulatory reform that unleashes innovation and drives economic growth. The council is developing a playbook of agile regulatory techniques (e.g. regulatory sandboxes) that governments can adopt to support and stimulate innovation, drawing on best practices from around the world.