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**IMPROVEMENT IN HEALTHCARE SPARKS IMPROVEMENT IN NATION'S
PRODUCTIVITY AND COMPETITIVENESS**

24 July 2023, Petaling Jaya – Initiative on reducing congestion at public hospitals, set up under The Special Task Force on Agency Reform (STAR), will catalyse productivity and competitiveness improvement for the nation, thus further establishing Malaysia as a preferred destination for investment.

Zahid Ismail, Deputy Director General of Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC), said, "Malaysia's World Competitiveness Ranking has improved by five places to 27th in 2023 from 32nd in 2022. This performance derives from improvement of several sub-factors including health and environment where Malaysia has been ranked at 42nd in 2023 compared to 44th in 2022".

The World Competitiveness Yearbook (WCY), published by Institute for Management Development (IMD), is a comprehensive annual report on the competitiveness of countries based on extensive research. It analyses and ranks countries according to how they manage their competencies to achieve long-term value creation.

"Under health and environment sub-factor, our performance in the health infrastructure indicator has been ranked 23rd in 2023 compared to 28th in the previous year. Therefore, this STAR initiative on reducing congestion is a timely intervention to keep a good momentum going on to improve health infrastructure of the country, contributing to a greater performance of Malaysia in this report", he added.

Dato' Dr. Jacob Thomas, Champion of Private Healthcare Productivity (PHPN), welcomes and supports this initiative for the betterment of the *rakyat* and patients. "It is anticipated that this initiative will accelerate the implementation of Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in Malaysia's healthcare sector", Dato' Dr. Jacob explained.

Among the measures agreed upon and currently implemented related to PPP under this initiative are establishing the healthcare ecosystem collaborative task force at the district level and the MADANI Health Scheme, in addition to other measures such as extending the operational hours of health clinics and expanding the virtual healthcare service.

"With the MADANI scheme and collaborative task force in place, the patients can be transferred systematically from public to private hospitals and clinics, serving as a more

sustainable measure to address this long-standing issue. It can also improve the productivity of the private healthcare subsector as the existing resources and equipment can be shared and further utilised by greater numbers of patients coming in", Dato' Dr. Jacob added.

The Special Task Force on Agency Reform (STAR) was formed to improve various government services including congestion at public hospital by analysing the people's needs and cutting red tape. This initiative indicates strong commitment by the government in taking a proactive approach towards improving the healthcare delivery system, which will have a positive impact on the nation's productivity and competitiveness.

End.

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About Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC)

MPC is a statutory body under the Ministry of Investment, Trade and Industry (MITI). It drives national productivity holistically at the national, sectoral, and enterprise levels through five main thrusts: developing future talent, driving digitization and innovation, ensuring industry accountability for productivity, building a robust ecosystem, and fostering productive mindset. It collaborates strategically with the private and public sectors by emphasising productivity as a key agenda to boost productivity growth and national competitiveness, ultimately leading to shared well-being and prosperity.