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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Structured Industry Apprenticeship Programme (SIAP) –
A Game Changer for the E&E Sector?**

26 June 2020, Kuala Lumpur – Towards growing the base of higher value-added products and services in the Electrical and Electronics (E&E) sector, the Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) through the Electrical and Electronics Productivity Nexus (EEPN), and in collaboration with the Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE), Malaysia National Applied Research and Development Centre (MIMOS), public universities and industry players, have co-created a focused strategy to enhance newly graduated engineers' skills and technical competencies through the Structured Industry Apprenticeship Programme (SIAP).

MPC Director General Dato' Abdul Latif bin Haji Abu Seman said that it was vital for key stakeholders to work together and design policies that would enhance sectoral competitiveness by having the right talent base in place, especially within the areas of state-of-the-art manufacturing and design and development (D&D).

SIAP seeks to address multiple gaps that have been identified in Malaysia's competitiveness rankings in the World Competitive Yearbook (WCY) 2020 through a holistic approach that addresses competitiveness criteria related to workforce skills, talent attraction and retention, and university education. In WCY 2020, Malaysia's rankings had declined in the Skilled Labour (2020 : 30; 2019 : 5) criteria of the Labour Market sub-factor, which comprises one of the five sub-factors of the Business Efficiency factor. Declines were also noted in Apprenticeships (2020 : 30; 2019 : 5); Employee Training (2020 : 31; 2019 : 18); Attracting and Retaining Talents (2020 : 41; 2019 : 37); and Brain Drain (2020 : 30; 2019 : 24). In the Education sub-factor of the Infrastructure factor, a decline was recorded in the University Education (2020 : 32; 2019 : 29) criteria.

"To address the gaps identified, we have adopted the co-creation of strategy to drive Malaysia's policies competitiveness as the way forward. Bearing in mind the multi-faceted challenges of Covid-19 on the public and private sectors, we need to work together to

transform our workforce skills' to propel sectoral growth in line with the new normal of a post-Covid-19 world. Our co-creation approach focuses on E&E industry players' needs, and reflects the Government's desire to be inclusive in the development of national policies," said Dato' Abdul Latif.

SIAP targets engineering students with a series of engagements to create industry awareness by providing industry internships and an industry-driven learning series. SIAP comprises six modules which is being piloted at seven public universities and involves the participation of MIMOS, the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA), MOHE, the industry-led Collaborative Research in Engineering, Science and Technology Centre (CREST) which focuses on market-driven research and talent development, as well as MPC.

SIAP components were developed based on feedback from E&E industry players on areas that require greater workforce skills and capabilities, which include Integrated Circuit (IC) Design, Digital Design, Structural Design and Analog Design, as well as Design for Testability (DFT) and Design for Excellence (DFX) which are playing a more critical role in today's E&E design environment.

End.

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About Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC)

Malaysia Productivity Corporation (MPC) is a statutory body under the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI). MPC promotes productivity, quality and competitiveness to the industries and organisations in Malaysia. MPC's vision is to be the leading organisation in productivity enhancement for global competitiveness and innovation.

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