

Honouring Malaysia's top exporters

EAA enhances industry excellence by recognising key drivers of the economy

KUALA LUMPUR: The Export Excellence Awards (EAA) Gala Night has returned after a break due to Covid-19 restrictions, to salute exporters and recognise those who excelled in delivering Malaysian products abroad.

EAA 2021, the second edition of the awards, was held at Shangri-La KL with Carlsberg as the official beer sponsor, and saw 30 awards being given out to deserving exporters of different sizes – from small and medium enterprises to mid-tier and large companies – as well as different sectors and geographical regions.

Aside from the gold and silver winners in five industry categories, the event also recognised several winners with special awards.

Rising to the top were two Exporters of the Year – Northeast Precision Sdn Bhd and Pentamaster Corporation Bhd.

A special award for halal products was presented to Linaco Manufacturing (M) Sdn Bhd, while Transcargo Worldwide (M) Sdn Bhd was conferred the Thriving in Adversity award.

The event's guest of honour, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, said the EEA plays a definitive role in enhancing industry excellence by recognising and giving keen appreciation to the calibre and ingenuity of the key drivers of the Malaysian economy.

"These awards could not have come at a more opportune time. We're living in a time of extraordinary change, where we've had to change the way we live, rethink the way we work, and relook at how we can create a more sustainable future for people and the planet," he said.



One for the album: (Back row) Yeow (third from left), Mohd Mustafa (second from left), Chan (fourth from left), Mustapa (sixth from left), Chia (fourth from right), Abrar (third from right), Lokman (second from right), Standard Chartered Malaysia consumer, private and business banking managing director and country head Sammeer (second row, right), (front row) SMG chief business officer Lydia Wang (third from left) and Standard Chartered Saadiq Malaysia CEO Mohd Suhaimi Abdul Hamid (left), with EEA 2021's winners. — GLENN GUAN/The Star

Star Media Group Bhd (SMG) chief executive officer (CEO) Alex Yeow said the EEA provides a platform to showcase Malaysia's capabilities to the world.

"With this, we want to recognise and honour successful exporters and their contribution to our economy.

"You have proven that we can stand tall among international giants.

"This could not have been more evident than within the last year alone," he said.

Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia managing director and chief executive officer Abrar A. Anwar said Malaysia remains one of the leading exporting nations in the world.

"According to a Standard Chartered study, 'Borderless Business', European and US compa-

nies ranked Malaysia as the second most favourable South-East Asian country for opportunities to establish or expand their resourcing, selling or operations over the next six to 12 months.

"We hope the awards will inspire and encourage more businesses to grow beyond Malaysia while honouring the heroes of the nation who are showing tremendous resilience while navigating global headwinds



and demonstrating excellence by thriving in adversity."

The event was also attended by International Trade and Industry Ministry secretary-general Datuk Lokman Hakim Ali, Standard Chartered Bank Malaysia chairman Datuk Yvonne Chia, Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (Matrade) CEO Mohd Mustafa Abdul Aziz, Credit Guarantee Corp Malaysia Bhd senior vice-president Mohamed Azman Mohamed Taufik, SMG director Chan Seng Fatt, as well as other heads of companies and corporate guests.

The awards programme aims to build a community of Malaysian exporters to support one another, share thought leadership and best practices with the industry's elite and provide a platform for exporters to showcase their capabilities and global potential.

EAA is organised by SMG in partnership with Standard Chartered Malaysia, with Matrade as a patron.

For more information on EEA, visit exportawards.com.my, contact Victor at victorcheong@thestar.com.my or Jency at jencyjohn@thestar.com.my.

Chong: A strong and stable govt for all is BN's objective

KUALA LUMPUR: Being able to form a stable government representing all races is Barisan Nasional's objective in the upcoming Johor state election, says Datuk Chong Sin Woon.

The MCA secretary-general said this aspiration was discussed during his meeting on Wednesday with Barisan chairman Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, deputy chairman Datuk Seri Mohamad Hasan and Johor Barisan chief Datuk Hasni Mohammad.

"They are hoping for support from all races to form a strong and stable government that is also multiculturally-diverse at the same

time," said Chong.

Chong said more new faces will be fielded as Barisan candidates in the upcoming Johor state election, but emphasised that Barisan will use a different strategy from the previous Melaka state election.

"Each election is different and there isn't one formula that can be used in all elections. We will craft a specific strategy for Johor," added Chong.

During the Melaka election last November, 24 out of the 28 candidates fielded by Barisan were fresh faces.

Barisan subsequently captured Melaka with a landslide victory of

winning 21 out of 28 state seats, securing a two-thirds majority in the state assembly.

Meanwhile, Chong said Johor voters must make the right choice at the ballot box to ensure political stability and economic development.

He noted development in Johor including the High Speed Rail (HSR) was previously disrupted.

"So, we hope Barisan can return to form a stable government and ensure a better economy for the people," he told reporters at a press conference at MCA's headquarters in KL yesterday.

The HSR project from KL to

Singapore was initially proposed by the Barisan Nasional government in 2010 and Singapore agreed to jointly undertake the project in 2013.

On Jan 1, 2021, Malaysia and Singapore jointly announced the termination of the HSR project as both countries failed to reach an agreement on changes proposed by Malaysia before the project agreement lapsed on Dec 31, 2020.

Chong also said following the death of Kempas Bersatu assemblyman Datuk Osman Sapian last month, the Johor government only had a 28-seat majority in the 56-seat state assembly.

"We don't want an unstable government to continue administering Johor because many programmes cannot be implemented," he said.

The Johor state assembly was dissolved on Jan 22.

The former state government led by Barisan had a simple majority of 28 (Barisan 16, Bersatu 11, PAS one) seats compared to Pakatan's 27 following the death of the Kempas assemblyman last month.

The EC will have a special meeting on Feb 9 to decide on key dates and matters on the Johor state election, namely polling day and nomination day.

After split over logo, questions arise about Pakatan unity

PETALING JAYA: With PKR deciding to use its own logo in the Johor state election while DAP and Parti Amanah Negara cling on to the Pakatan Harapan logo, there are now questions over just how united the coalition is.

Even DAP and Amanah leaders are disappointed, lamenting that the Pakatan logo could have presented a united front to voters.

"A common brand is vital in this uphill battle," said Amanah president Mohamad Sabu and DAP secretary-general Lim Guan Eng.

"It will help voters identify Amanah, DAP, PKR and Upko as

allies in a crowded field of political coalitions and parties," the duo said in a joint statement yesterday.

They argued that a common logo would have shown voters Pakatan's seriousness in governing again.

They said Malaysia has always been governed by a coalition since independence.

"Umno continues to use the Barisan Nasional logo despite being the single dominant political party in that coalition," they said.

"Swing voters generally respond positively to coalitions or parties which they think can win power

and can work together despite differences."

Lim and Mohamad said their parties would not abandon the Pakatan label as there are still three states under the coalition's administration: Selangor, Penang and Negeri Sembilan.

"Both Amanah and DAP will not abandon the coalition logo as it can be perceived as abandoning our efforts to regain Putrajaya," the duo added.

PKR has decided not to use the Pakatan logo as its members feel the party logo is the more recognised one, while the Pakatan logo

would remind voters of the coalition's failed 22-month administration.

Lim and Mohamed differed. "Both Amanah and DAP are of the opinion that political allies and coalition partners should stay together in good times, and bad times," they said.

They explained that Pakatan had used only PKR's logo in the 14th General Election in 2018 because of the difficulty in getting Pakatan registered by the Registrar of Societies (ROS).

The duo also pointed out that after Pakatan was registered by the

ROS, even PKR president Anwar Ibrahim used its logo during the Port Dickson by-election.

"After we won the 2018 general election, Pakatan became a registered entity with an approved logo. Anwar adopted it successfully in the Port Dickson by-election in October 2018."

The duo said that despite the differing views, Amanah and DAP would continue engaging PKR and other Opposition parties such as the Malaysian United Democratic Alliance (Muda) to try and achieve a united front before the state election.