

MEDIA CLIPPING

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Corporate tax reduction 'a pleasant surprise'

Ng Chun Kooi
CEO
Gabungan AQRS
Bhd



► We are heartened that the government has maintained its emphasis for major infrastructure and high-impact construction projects.

New projects such as the proposed construction of the new air traffic management centre in KL International Airport, "park and ride" facilities at LRT, KTM commuter and ERL stations, new district police headquarters will be opportunities for us to tender when they become available.

► The removal of the Developer Interest Bearing Scheme and increment of the real property gains tax rates will have an impact on property demand, especially those at the high-end market.

Being niche property developers, however we are confident that property buyers will recognise and appreciate the fundamental factors such as innovative features, niche locations with high accessibility.

We are optimistic that buyer demand will be intact in the long run.

► We will continue to focus on growing our construction order book and executing our projects well. Also, we are in a position to assess market response to the property measures.

All in all, we believe our plans are

full speed ahead.

Foo Sen Chin
Managing
director
ECS ICT Bhd



► It would have been nice to see further tax incentives for consumers to purchase mobile devices such as smartphones and tablets.

However, the reduction of corporate income tax rate to 24% from 25% was a pleasant surprise, while everyone will welcome the reduction of personal income tax rates as well.

► We believe that the implementation of the goods and services tax (GST) will have a broad impact across all industries and businesses. Since most ICT products are currently sales tax-free, the GST will see an increase in selling prices to end users.

► The second phase of the High Speed Broadband Project to expand internet access will greatly benefit households and consumers in urban and suburban areas nationwide. This bodes well with us as the network infrastructure required will increase the demand for ICT equipment and the improved internet connectivity and faster speeds will boost sales of mobile devices to consumers in the coming years.

In addition, the accelerated capital

allowance given to the purchase of ICT equipment and software will encourage businesses to invest further in ICT products to enhance efficiency and productivity.

► Our planned growth strategies in the coming years are generally in line with the government's thrust. As Malaysia's leading ICT distribution hub, we are well positioned to support the nation's aspiration to be a knowledge-based economy.

Damon Rielly
CEO
iCarAsia Ltd



► We welcome the government's move to improve internet accessibility and connectivity via

Phase 2 of the High Speed Broadband. It is a sizeable investment at RM1.8 billion but it is a vital step in the right direction – taking into account current demographic and development trends across Malaysia.

► Unlike in previous years, Budget 2014 was silent on the automotive industry, perhaps due to the new National Automotive Policy (NAP) which will be announced in the near future.

The government had mentioned the possibility of reduction in car prices and total cost of car vehicle ownership and since Budget 2014 did not touch on these areas, we expect to see this addressed in the NAP.