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The Changing Face of Government:
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Abstract The policy discourse as evidenced by mainly economic and political factors suggest that the state or government struggles to maintain control over the steering of policies and attempts to consolidate power often through coercion and force during periods of economic stability. In view of increasing vulnerabilities which pose significant downside risks to growth, major economies have initiated stimulus measures to support economic activities. This paper will highlight several key issues and policies of government transition and policy changes made given the evolving external and domestic conditions. This paper will also focus on the niche growth areas in Malaysia such as the economic corridors and sectors of the economy, the financial position of the government and policy actions and transformation plans taken. The application of strategies at times undermines the ability of networks to foster trust and coordination which in turn affects the implementation of public policies. Several studies show the evidence of a direct relationship between institutional trust and democratic legitimacy and theoretical traditions (cultural theories, theories of government performance and institutional theories) provide very different perspectives on how trust is developed in political institutions, in which this paper will demonstrate how citizens translate their judgments of government performance into overall trust given the politics of policy changes of the government.

Key Words: Policy, Government, Institutional Trust, Politics, Economy

INTRODUCTION

The Government recognizes that today's challenges require a different approach and the focus now is on providing a conducive ecosystem to attract private investment, create employment and economic activities as well as enhance the quality of services in urban and rural areas. The consensus among economists indicates that the country's economy will remain resilient, with GDP averaging at 5% growth. The growth in private investment has continued over the last several quarters and it is expected to continue in the coming quarters with the continuing multi-year investments in large infrastructure and capital intensive industrial projects. However, recent downtrend in commodity prices could be disconcerting, especially since global growth recovery is