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**PRESS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ISI organises democracy forum to address uncertainties in Malaysian politics amid Covid-19

23 March 2021, Kuala Lumpur - Since the Perikatan Nasional (PN) coalition took power in a rather unconventional way by claiming majority seats in Dewan Rakyat back in February 2020, the *rakyat* has been taken on the roller coaster ride. Never before in the Malaysia's political landscape has seen such dramatic changes for the past two years since its independence in 1957.

As the world is transformed through this pandemic crisis, Malaysian democracy also finds itself at a unique crossroad. The window for reform has been thrown open by the uncertainties of the pandemic, affording us an opportunity for us to revisit the institutions that have served the people all this while.

In the past 63 years, Parliament has always served as the eminent platform for the Malaysians to exchange views and deliberate matters of public interest through their representatives. While the pendulum of public policymaking has gradually swung towards the executive over the years, now is the opportune time to rekindle our trust in the institution of Parliament to stake its place as equal partners to the Executive.

The International Strategy Institute (ISI) with the support of Parliament of Malaysia will organise the Malaysia Democracy Forum with the theme "*Charting the Future of Parliamentary Democracy in Malaysia*" on 30 March 2021 at the InterContinental Kuala Lumpur.

This Forum marked as a landmark event with an objective to increase the quality of discourse in parliament, one that is befitting Malaysia's aspiration to become a mature and efficient parliamentary democracy, and to increase the voice and participation of the youth in our political process in order to do away with racial politics that has stifled our country's progress for decades.

"The objective of the Forum is to increase the quality of discourse in parliament to become a mature and efficient parliamentary democracy", ISI's Chairman, Cheah Chyuan Yong said today. This one-day Forum will consist of keynote speeches and panel discussions by national leaders and eminent speakers, from diverse spectrums focusing on topics such as "Are Political Parties Essential in a Parliamentary Democracy?", "Parliamentary Democracy in Malaysia – Perspective of the Civil Society", and "Funding in Politics", Cheah added.

Some of the eminent speakers attending are YBhg Dato' Sri Anifah Aman, President of Parti Cinta Sabah / Former Foreign Minister of Malaysia will deliver the forum Opening Keynote Address, YB Datuk Azhar Azizan Harun, Yang di-Pertua Dewan Rakyat will deliver the Special Luncheon Address, YBhg Datuk Seri Dr. Subramaniam Sathasivam, Former Minister of Health and Former President, Malaysian Indian Congress (MIC) to deliver the Special Address, and YB Dato' Sri Mohd Najib bin Tun Abdul Razak to deliver the Closing Keynote Address.

Other distinguished panelist participating are YB Michelle Ng Mei Sze, Member, Selangor State Legislative Assembly for Subang Jaya, YB Tuan Khalid Bin Abd Samad, Director, Communication, National Trust Party (AMANAH), YB Senator Mohd Yusmadi Bin Mohd Yusoff, Member, Malaysian Parliament for Balik Pulau, Penang, Shahril Sufian Hamdan, Deputy Youth and Information Chief, United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), YB Teresa Kok Suh Sim, Member of Parliament for Seputeh, YBhg Dato' Dr. Asyraf Wajdi Dusuki, Youth Chief, United Malays National Organisation (UMNO), YBhg Dato' Mohana Muniandy, Former MIC National Women Leader, Tai Zee How, Ms Mourhrna Anetha Reddy, Spokesperson for Social Equality, Vice Chairman Bureau SMED, Gerakan, Professor Datuk Dr. Shamrahayu A.Aziz, Chair Holder, The Institution of Malay Rulers Chair, University Technology Mara, YBhg Dato' Mah Weng Kwai, Commissioner, SUHAKAM, Isham Jalil, Information Chief, Barisan Nasional for Selangor, Jamal Raslan,

Former Banker / Spoken Word Artist, Ainul Aizat Ahmad Ishak, Former Press Secretary to the Minister of International Trade & Industry (2013-15) and many more.

Attendance to this forum is strictly by invitation only.

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NOTE TO EDITOR:

About the International Strategy Institute (ISI)

The International Strategy Institute (ISI) is a not-for-profit organisation that helps connect governments and businesses across Asia and the world. We stand for universal ethical business values such as: equality, transparency, fair trade, and sustainable development.

Our dialogues, research and networking platforms, are designed to drive economic growth in the region. We aim to,

1. build platforms for regional dialogue and networking opportunities that allow businesses, industry captains and governments to come together to drive economic growth of the region;
2. provide timely research to keep our members and governments informed and updated on global trade and political issues that may have an impact on their operations;
3. match businesses to the right investors- to ensure that the companies are paired with the right strategic investment partner

Vision and Mission

International Strategy Institute (ISI) aims to be the leading regional connector and networking platform for governments and businesses across Asia and the Pacific.

Through our networking events, conferences, and rigorously research publications, we hope to promote a robust Asian business environment that is strategic, inclusive, innovative and sustainable.

For more information about ISI, please visit www.istrategyglobal.org