



**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

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**Challenges Faced by The National Statistics Office  
Department of Statistics Malaysia**

**Dr. Abdul Rahman Hasan  
Chief Statistician  
Department of Statistics  
Malaysia**

## DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA (DOSM)

### Background

- DOSM was established in 1949 under the Statistics Ordinance 1949 – known as Bureau of Statistics
- 1965 – the Statistics Act 1965 was passed by the Parliament and the Statistics Ordinance was repealed
- Under this new act, The Bureau of Statistics was to be known as the Department of Statistics
- Currently, DOSM has 16 Divisions including the Statistical Training Institute, Malaysia (ILSM), 14 State Offices and 28 Operational Centres (POs)

### Role and Responsibilities

- Malaysia adopts a centralized statistical system
- DOSM as the main official statistical agency is responsible for the country's official statistics to collect, process, interpret and disseminate data through the censuses/surveys conducted and compilation of secondary data.
- The principal statistics produced by DOSM comprise economic and Social/ Demographic areas

## CHALLENGES

**Formulation of Development Policies**

**Globalisation**

**Economic Liberalisation**

**Demand of the General Public on the Usage and Accessibility of Data**

**Demand on Evidence-Based Decision Making**

**Coordination in Data Collection**

## Formulation of Development Policies

To achieve a goal of becoming a developed country and high income nation by the year 2020, the government has introduced four pillars as a strategic thrust to help Malaysia transformation:

### 4 pillars

**1** 1Malaysia: People First, Performance Now

**2** Government Transformation Programme

**3** Economic Transformation Programme

**4** Malaysia Five Year Development Plan

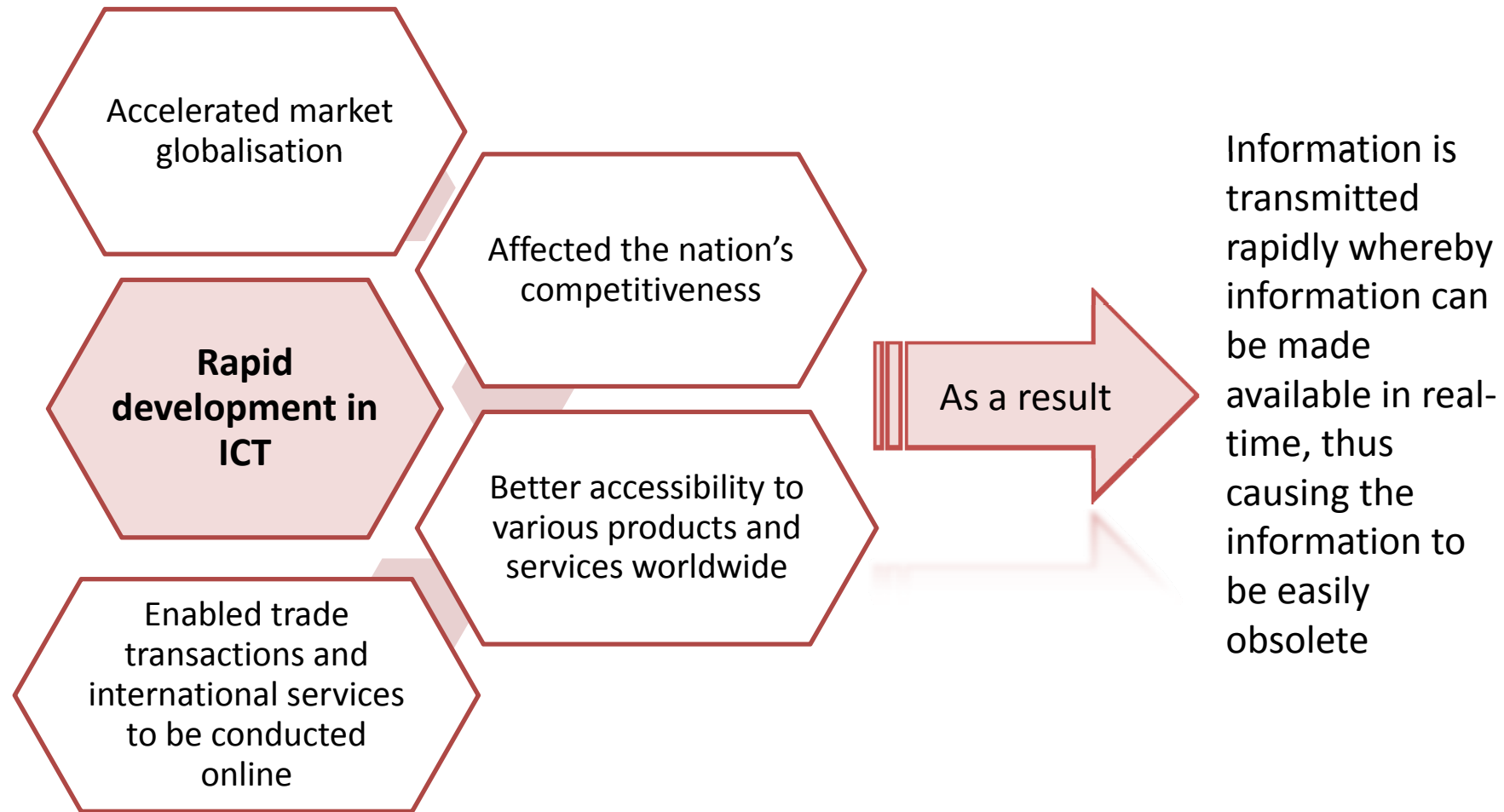
## Formulation of Development Policies

The direction and strategies of DOSM should be flexible in tandem with the development policies.

In facing these challenges, the knowledge, skills and experience are important aspects to determine that the Department's personnel are at the best level of competency in which the excellence of the organisation lies in its innovative and creative human capital.

To instill the skills, professionalism and competence among the DOSM personnel, continuous training will be given either in the field of statistics, management and other relevant fields.

## Globalisation



## Globalisation

### Challenges

Users are able to compare the release time with that of other national statistics organisations

Threats to the security of information

Online data transmission always exposed to intrusion by cyber criminals

Systems applications and data repository are susceptible to hackers

Timeliness and data reliability are crucial

Provide a  
secure cyber  
security

Expand the  
coverage of  
Advanced  
Release  
Calendar to  
other areas

## Economic Liberalisation

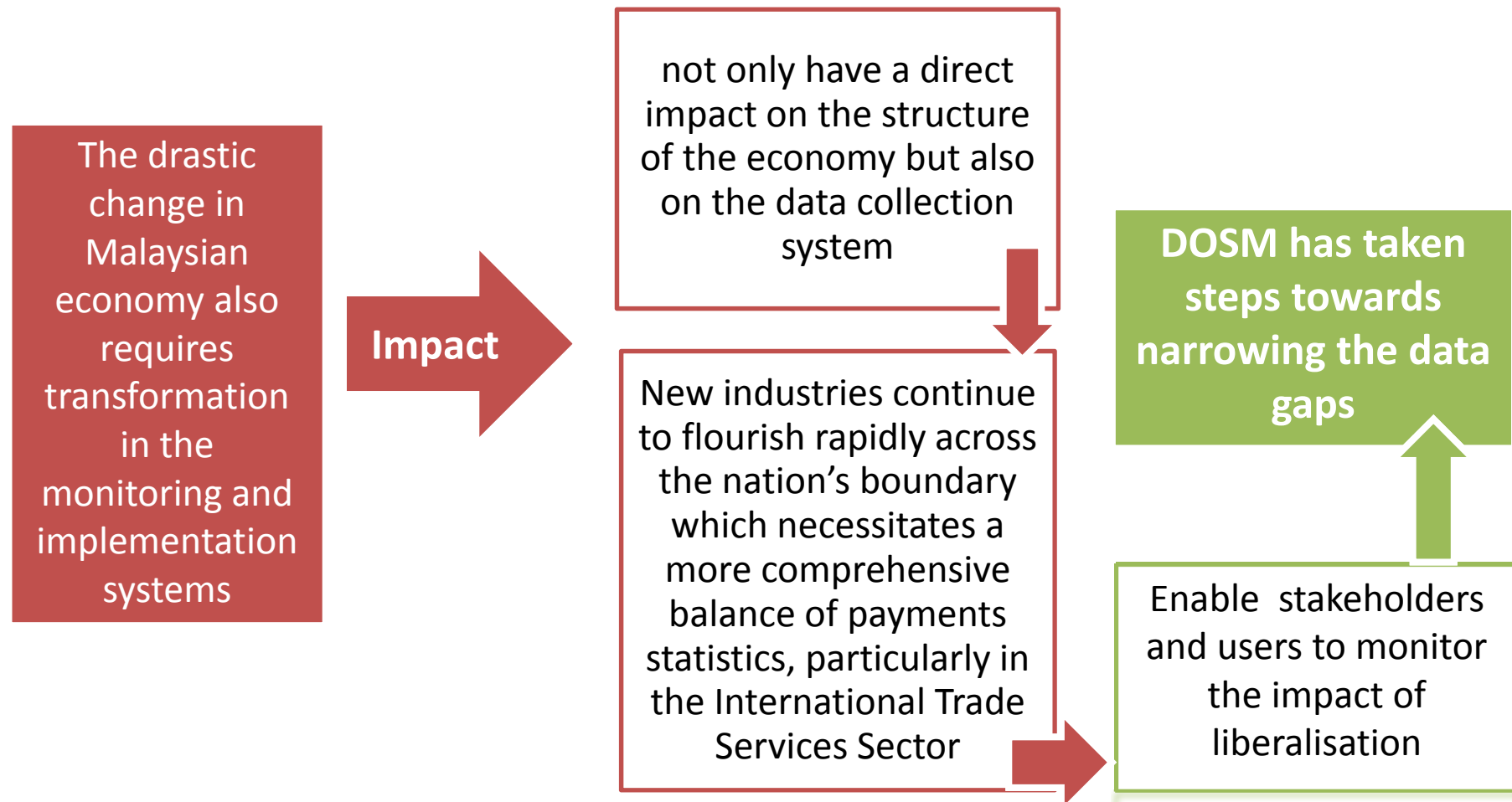
Liberalisation of the services sector - aim to develop a conducive business environment to attract investments, technologies, as well as to create high skilled employment opportunities

vital to produce relevant indicators or measurements for the range of services industries

To develop indices on the services sector: Index of Services (IoS), Services Producer Price Index (SPPI) and to strengthen Statistics of International Trade in Services (SITS)



## Economic Liberalisation



## Demand of the General Public on the Usage and Accessibility of Data

### Economic analysis is no longer at a macro level instead it has become more complex and detailed

- DOSM is improving its capacity in statistical methodology such as data mining, small area estimation and consistencies between establishment and household surveys to produce robust estimates

### The globalisation and advancement in ICT have enabled free flow of information

- DOSM to provide a better dissemination infrastructure and comprehensive information via relevant medium of communication.

### Demands for micro data

- Introduced the Micro Data Policy
- Developed infrastructure for accessing the micro data via DOSM web portal

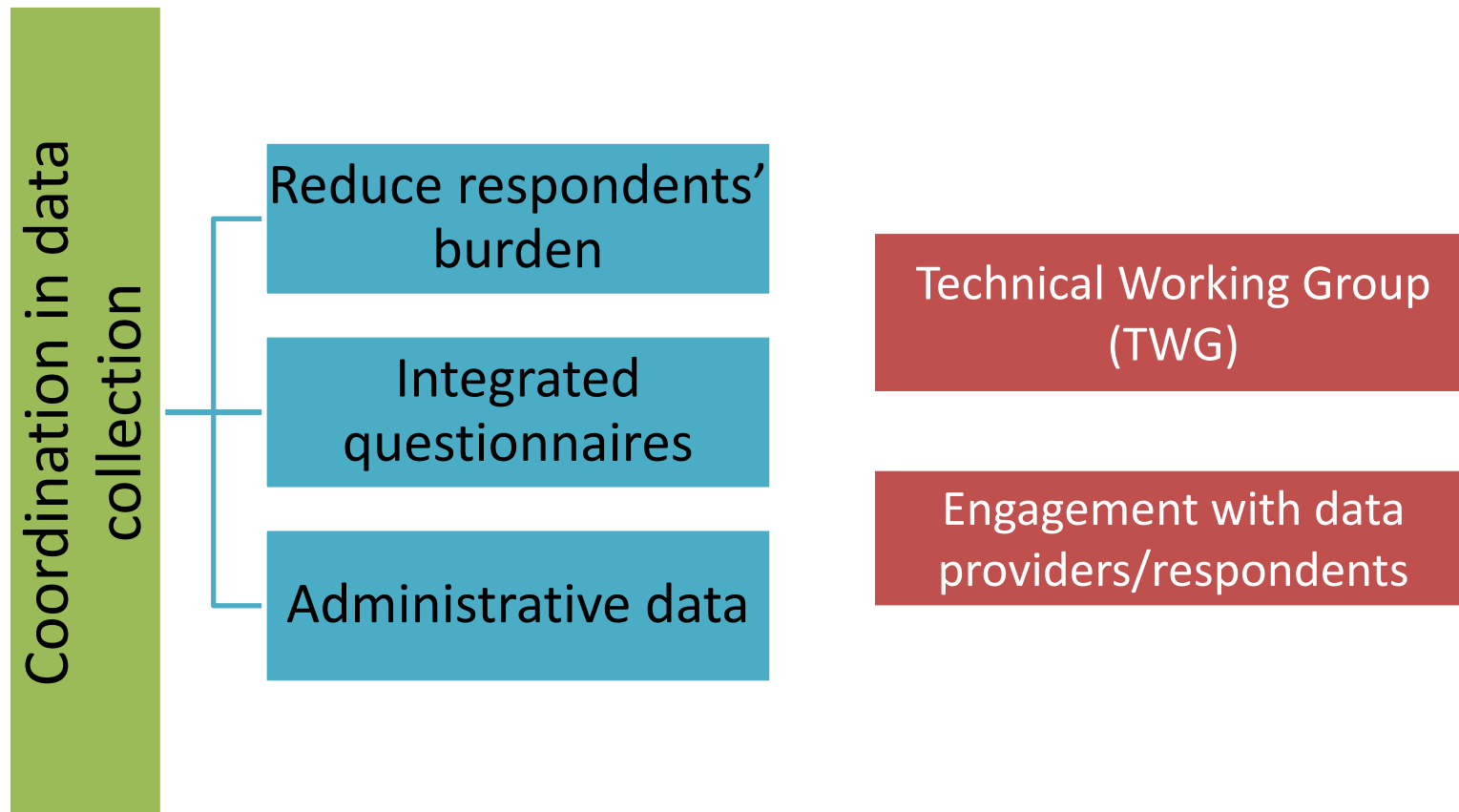
## Demand of Evidence-Based Decision Making

Evidence-Based Decision Making is defined as an approach which ‘helps people make well informed decisions about policies, programmes and projects by putting the best available evidence from research at the heart of policy development and implementation.’ (Davies, 2004: 3)

Evidences do not only prove the success or failure of programme, status and progress of programme but also specific areas at micro level. As an example, analysis on poverty does not only determine the rate; the data must be able to show where the poor are located. Thus, DOSM has to migrate from current practices towards the use of geospatial data.

This entails a high analytical skills and knowledge. DOSM will continue to enhance the analytical ability of its personnel.

## Coordination in Data Collection



## THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT AND ITS IMPLICATION

In adapting to the challenging development, DOSM need to be more responsive, sensitive and innovative in providing services. Therefore, DOSM will:

Strengthen its role as the leading statistical agency and must be user oriented to meet current and future needs through benchmarking the best practices of reputable statistical organisations

To focus on collaboration with other government agencies and the private sectors including higher education institutional to increase research, data sharing, analysis and to reduce respondents' burden

To review and enhance methodologies, procedures and survey manuals so as to produce data in a timely manner, reduce cost and increase response rates via a more professional rapport with data suppliers

## THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT AND ITS IMPLICATION – Cont'd

To focus on the establishment of a relevant and comprehensive business registry and depicted into geospatial data

To develop first-class human capital that is innovative and knowledgeable through training, networking and active participation at the international arena

To ensure continuous improvement in data quality and reduced collection time, processing and data dissemination

To enhance information delivery systems through the availability of time series data that can be accessed interactively

To develop a central repository for data collected and processed by DOSM and other government agencies

## THE CHANGING ENVIRONMENT AND ITS IMPLICATION – Cont'd

To produce new products that is relevant and meet user requirement and focusing more on analysis

To educate the public on the importance of statistics and data provision

To enhance the use of ICT among the personnel

## CONCLUSION

Throughout 63 years of existence, DOSM encounters challenges in generating national statistics for the nation. A changing environment interlinked with globalisation, liberalisation of trade and services and continuous technological progress have brought about new dimensions in data requirements. DOSM has to be responsive and proactive in setting up the future direction in order to remain relevant to the statistical services of the country.

The main challenge of DOSM is to ensure that data produced can fulfill the demands and expectations of its stakeholders and user's particularly micro level data and relevant indicators. The efficiency of the statistical data dissemination system is to be enhanced to enable real time data retrieval.

DOSM has to realign its strategic direction towards being a world class statistical organisation by 2020. DOSM must overcome all challenges encountered to remain relevant and to realise its vision, mission and objectives as well as fulfilling the expectations and increasing needs of its stakeholders and users.





**DEPARTMENT OF STATISTICS MALAYSIA**

# Thank you

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