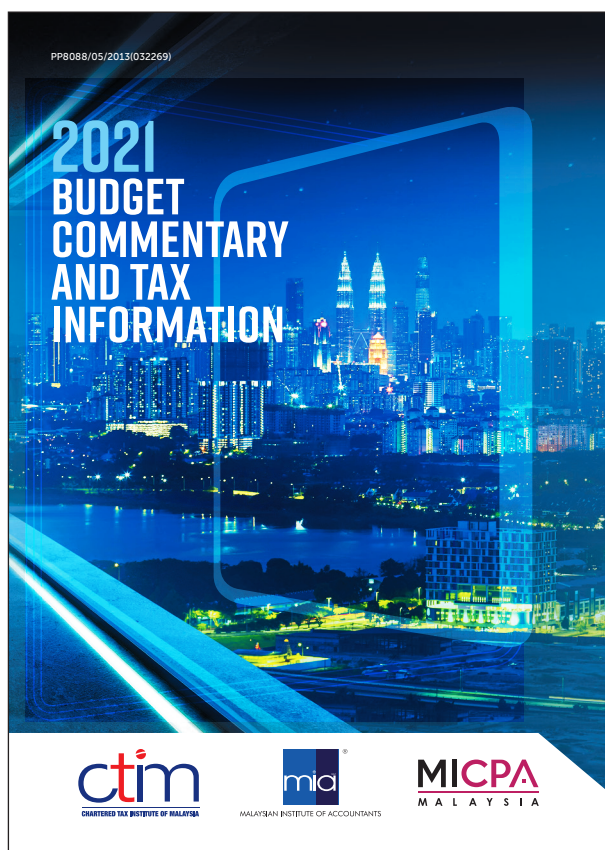




The economic scenario

Unprecedented developments have gripped the nation from the beginning of 2020 as the world adapts to new norms created by the global Covid-19 pandemic. The political uncertainty seems to compound the economic fallout resulting from the pandemic. Falling oil prices and economic inactivity during the Movement Control Order is expected to sharply lower tax collections and further increase the national budget deficit. Like many jurisdictions in the world, the Government introduced timely economic recovery packages, including the Short-Term Economic Recovery Plan (PENJANA) and Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package (PRIHATIN), to address the drastic economic slowdown brought about by Covid-19. Budget 2021 will be complemented with additional economic measures, particularly involving SMEs. An important area is enhancing the usage of technology and digitalisation across the public and private sectors to spur economic growth to generate greater economic activity and improve public sector delivery.

All these developments should translate into further measures and changes to incentivise various industries in the coming Budget 2021 which is expected to be presented by the Finance Minister on November 6, 2020. To bring some insights and perspectives to our fellow professionals, **The Malaysian Institute of Certified Public Accountants (MICPA) together with the Chartered Tax Institute of Malaysia (CTIM) and the Malaysian Institute of Accountants (MIA)**, will once again jointly publish the 2021 annual Budget Commentary and Tax Information booklet for our members.

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