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For Immediate Release

Bridging the Gap: A SERI Dinner with Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and Nurul Izzah Anwar



(Left-right: MC and Astro Awani anchor, Ibrahim Sani, MP for Permatang Pauh, YB Nurul Izzah Anwar, CEO of SERI, Dr Helmy Haja Mydin)

SEPTEMBER 27, 2022 - Social and Economic Research Initiative (SERI) held their inaugural annual dinner held at Ruyi & Lyn at Bangsar Shopping Centre. With a theme of “Bridging the Gap” the programme looked to discuss SERI’s policy and research against social inequality. As SERI’s main feature, the dinner featured Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed and Nurul Izzah Anwar attending as esteemed guests providing insight on their efforts toward equality and social justice from both sides of the political divide.

The event was opened by Dr Helmy Haja Mydin, CEO of SERI. In his remarks he said that stability comes from consistency in evidence-based policies. He further elaborated that “the right policies should be championed and implemented by leaders, irrespective of political allegiance”.

Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed in his speech spoke of poverty and the work done by him and his team around this issue. He reflected on an inner sense of responsibility to provide assistance to those troubled financially. “I got to do something about hardcore poverty”. This includes identifying the various groups, building their profiles and developing plans and policy to assist them.

The dinner was brought to a close with a fireside chat between Dr Helmy and YB Nurul Izzah Anwar, moderated by Astro Awani anchor Ibrahim Sani who also acted as the night’s MC.

The discussion focused on social and economic inequality in Malaysia, the challenges faced by marginalised groups, various efforts that can be undertaken to address inequality and the challenges faced when doing so. When talking about the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI), an index that can be used as a realistic measure of poverty in Malaysia, she highlighted the collaboration with Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed on the project. “It was very important to carry the agenda in a bipartisan manner”. She expanded on her experience from the MPI to say that female-led single-headed households face the highest level of deprivation and called for policies to be “gender sensitive”.

The event was sponsored by Platinum Sponsor, NEC Corporation of Malaysia and Gold Sponsors, Huawei Malaysia, MK Tron and Silverlake Innovation Partners, supported by Google with media partners Astro Awani and MBits.



Proceeds from the event will go toward future research and studies.

SERI is a non-partisan think tank dedicated to advancing evidence-based politics that bridge the gap between the haves and the have-nots and building a more inclusive society that enables all Malaysians to thrive. SERI serves as a bridge between multiple stakeholders, from government bodies, the private sector and policymakers, to promote greater awareness of the issues affecting society, to catalyse the execution of pragmatic and impactful solutions, and to support stakeholders in their quest to grow a more dynamic and equitable future for everyone.

SERI is a non-partisan think-tank dedicated to the promotion of evidence-based policies that address issues of inequality, particularly at the intersection of technology and society. For more information, please visit seri.my

 : Social & Economic Research Initiative  : Social & Economic Research Initiative (SERI)

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