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Datuk Muhammad Bin Ibrahim

Governor of the Central Bank of Malaysia

MALAYSIA'S ECONOMY TO EXPAND IN 2017

Malaysia's economy is projected to expand between 4.3-4.8% in 2017 driven by domestic demand as well as external factors, said Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim, the Governor of Malaysia's Central Bank (Bank Negara Malaysia, BNM).

According to a *Bernama* report, he said domestic demand would remain a key driver with support from improvement in net exports while private consumption would be supported by continued employment and income growth.

'Households have the capacity and resilience to support expenditure, as well as have ample liquid financial assets to cover debt,' he told a briefing on the BNM Annual Report

2016 as well as the Financial Stability and Payments Report in Kuala Lumpur on March 23, 2017. (Access www.bnm.gov.my for full report)

Muhammad said private investment would be supported by the implementation of projects in the services and manufacturing sectors.

"Services and manufacturing sectors account for 75 per cent of private investment activity while key quality projects would increase efficiency, productive capacity and employment."

Risk factors, he said, exist such as threats of protectionism, geopolitical developments, cautious sentiments and financial disruptions.

"These are risk to growth from slower global growth uncertainties, volatility in capital flows and exchange rates, as well as weaker consumer and business sentiment."