



QUARTERLY BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PERFORMANCE, FOURTH QUARTER 2014

OVERALL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

In the fourth quarter 2014, Malaysia's Balance of Payments posted a surplus in current account of RM6.1 billion, a net outflow in financial account of RM24.4 billion and a decrease in the international reserves of RM11.4 billion. For the whole year of 2014, the current account surplus widened to RM49.5 billion as compared to RM39.9 billion in 2013. Meanwhile financial account posted a higher net outflow of RM76.5 billion (2013: -RM15.8 billion) and international reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia had registered a decrease of RM36.3 billion in 2014.

CURRENT ACCOUNT

The current account balance decreased by RM1.5 billion from previous quarter mainly reflected from higher deficit in primary income account of RM13.8 billion (Q3 2014: -RM9.4 billion) and higher deficit in services account of RM7.9 billion (Q3 2014: -RM6.4 billion). Year-on-year, the surplus on current account narrowed by RM8.7 billion from RM14.8 billion in Q4 2013.

During 2014, the current account balance recorded RM49.5 billion, increase by RM9.6 billion from RM39.9 billion posted in 2013. This was contributed by higher surplus in goods account of RM125.1 billion (2013: RM108.2 billion).

CAPITAL ACCOUNT

In Q4 2014, capital account posted net inflow of RM284.3 million, a reversal from net outflow of RM1.4 million last quarter. In 2014, the capital account reverted to a net inflow of RM280.6 million from net outflow of RM20.9 million posted in the same period of last year.

FINANCIAL ACCOUNT

The financial account recorded higher net outflow of RM24.4 billion from RM2.8 billion last quarter. This was mainly due to a reversal in other investment to net outflow of RM4.1 billion from net inflow RM6.1 billion and higher net outflow in portfolio investment of RM20.4 billion (Q3 2014: -RM11.0 billion).

Year-on-year, financial account registered a higher net outflow by RM14.7 billion from RM9.7 billion in Q4 2013. This was attributed mainly by higher net outflow in portfolio investment by RM19.6 billion (Q4 2013: -RM0.8 billion). Annually, financial account recorded net outflow of RM76.5 billion (2013: -RM15.8 billion) due to higher net outflow in all components. The major contributor was portfolio investment which recorded -RM37.9 billion from -RM3.0 billion in 2013.

In term of direct investment, a turnaround registered to net outflow of RM0.2 billion from a net inflow of RM2.1 billion last quarter. On assets and liabilities basis, assets recorded net outflow of RM8.1 billion (Q3 2014: -RM6.2 billion), while liabilities registered a net inflow of RM7.9 billion (Q3 2014: RM8.3 billion). According to directional basis, Direct Investment Abroad (DIA) posted net outflow of RM10.4 billion (Q3 2014: -RM5.6 billion. Meanwhile, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Malaysia recorded a net inflow of RM10.2 billion (Q3 2014: RM7.7 billion).

RESERVE ASSETS

The international reserves of Bank Negara Malaysia decreased by RM11.4 billion in Q4 2014. Annually, the reserve decreased by RM36.3 billion, stood at RM405.5 billion as at end of December 2014.

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