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# 'Improving Bumi human capital is the core plan'

**EMPOWERMENT:** Better skills will lead to matching of market needs, says Najib

**ADIB POVERA**  
KUALA LUMPUR

**T**HE government will increase the number of training programmes to meet the goal of empowering human capital under the Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Plan.

In a Facebook post, Najib said this included intensifying programmes to enhance skills and acquire new skills or re-skilling to empower human capital among the Bumiputera.

He said improving human capital was the main thrust of the programme, which had been described by analysts as the biggest economic push to date for the country's largest community.

"Enabling human capital is the main core of the Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Plan.

"When Bumiputera human capital is empowered, it will lead to matching of qualifications and fulfil the market's demand for skilled workers."

Apart from improving human capital, the economic blueprint will also focus on increasing equity ownership, wealth creation, helping Bumiputera businesses and improving the delivery system.

The Malaysian Malay Economic Consultative Council (MAPEM) and the Selangor Malay Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DPPMS) joined scores of Bumiputera groups and non-governmental organisations in lauding the prime minister over the eco-

nomie programme.

In a joint statement yesterday, MAPEM and DPPMS were confident the programme would benefit small and medium industries and could help the government turn the country into a high-income nation by 2020.

Tan Sri Rozali Ismail, who is the president of both organisations, welcomed the establishment of the Mara Education Fund, which would allocate RM1 billion for training programmes, education, entrepreneurship, research and development, and innovation.

"I am grateful that the prime minister has increased the allocation for Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia and Tekun Nasional.

"The additional funds will help more people apply for financial assistance.

"I hope all Bumiputera entrepreneurs will use these opportunities to progress."

He called on all Malays to work with the prime minister to realise his vision.

Meanwhile, Najib tweeted that the country was heading towards an innovation-based economy. He said the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry planned to set up an innovation centre soon.

The centre would be a base for the government to gather and commercialise all innovations.

Via his account @NajibRazak, the prime minister also congrat-

ulated Malaysia Airports Holdings Bhd after the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Sepang was ranked third in the Top 10 Airports Worldwide category in the Smart Travel Asia 2013 Best in Travel Poll.

Najib also praised Lembaga Tabung Haji, which was recently commended by the Saudi Arabian government for its efficient management of haj pilgrims.

In **Putrajaya**, the Malay Consultative Council (MCC) has lauded Najib for unveiling the Bumiputera Economic Empowerment Plan.

To enhance the plan, 21 MCC members yesterday handed over a 32-point memorandum to the prime minister.

Among its recommendations was to establish more government-linked companies (GLCs) and boost the number of Bumiputera entrepreneurs

The creation of more GLCs could be done through the amalgamation of small and medium enterprises with successful cooperatives.

"More business development agendas can be fulfilled instantly with the formation of more GLCs.

"The plan is an economic model that is dynamic and should be reviewed from time to time according to current needs," said MCC member and National Cooperative Organisation of Malaysia (**Angkasa**) president Datuk Abdul **Fattah Abdullah** after the meeting in Perdana Putra.

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“Although the plan focuses on the development of the domestic economy, we feel that it is time for Bumiputera businesses to spearhead the community on a global scale,” Fattah said.

He said Angkasa also wished to see more cooperatives involved in the government’s new initiatives for Bumiputeras.

MCC secretary Dr Hasan Mad said the Bumiputera empowerment plan must be based on syariah.



**Datuk Seri Najib Razak** (third from right) going through the **32-point memorandum** presented to him by the **Malay Consultative Council** at Perdana Putra, Putrajaya, yesterday. Bernama pic