

NCER HUMAN CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES COMPLEMENT GOVERNMENT EFFORTS TO ELIMINATE POVERTY IN THE REGION

Sungkai, Perak 2 October 2020 - The Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) has placed the Strategic Development Plan 2021-2025 (NCER SDP) to be the mainstay in supporting the Malaysian Government's efforts to improve the socioeconomic status of the *Rakyat* during the *Seminar Pendapatan Garis Kemiskinan 2019 (PGK)* dialogue session held at the *Institut Latihan Statistik Malaysia (ILSM)* in Sungkai, Perak with Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy), Yang Berhormat Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, today.

Based on the latest Household Income Survey released last July by the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), socioeconomic data indicate a relatively significant gap in income between Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER) states, especially the comparison of urban and rural areas. The incidence of poverty in households are indicated by variables in income (including entrepreneurship), health (access to healthcare and medical services), education and quality of life (access to information, basic utilities, etc.).

Poverty, issues and challenges are specific to each state; therefore, discussions at the state level will narrow down the issues and help seminar participants focus on formulating solutions that would cater to the specific needs of each state. To achieve this, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) were carried out at the state level, a week before the seminar to ensure a more in depth and comprehensive discussion.

Organised by NCIA and the Economic Planning Unit (EPU), the purpose of the PGK 2019 seminar is to gather subject matter experts from Perak, Penang, Kedah and Perlis state governments, government agencies, academicians and NGOS who are familiar with issues related to poverty to discuss the data and feedback obtained from the FGDs and the DOSM Household Income Survey. From this engagement, the seminar provided feedback to the Government to formulate effective policies for poverty eradication programmes in RMK-12.

Mustapa said, "Views and ideas in the dialogue session with stakeholders today are very important for the Government to obtain accurate information in an effort to devise new initiatives for the current and future, especially in drafting the 12th Malaysia Plan.

"The Government is working hard to put together more comprehensive and long-term poverty eradication programmes to improve the socioeconomic status of the populace, especially in the NCER, to ensure that economic balance and prosperity is experienced by all sections of the *Rakyat*.

"Planning to ease the burden of the *Rakyat* has become increasingly challenging with the country facing the COVID-19 pandemic. The feedback obtained from this seminar shall allow the Government to improve existing initiatives and foster a stronger cooperation with stakeholders in each state and economic region."

High-impact catalyst projects throughout the NCER such as the Chuping Valley Industrial Area (CVIA), Kedah Rubber City (KRC), Sidam Logistics, Aerospace and Manufacturing Hub (SLAM), NCER Technology Innovation Centre (NTIC), Silver Valley Technology Park (SVTP) and I-CON@NCER will enable local communities to benefit socioeconomically as well as increase employment opportunities.

Realising that income, health, education and entrepreneurship are key components in the fight to overcome poverty, NCIA has designed integrated and holistic human capital programmes such as JomKerja@NCER, JomNiaga@NCER, Kasih Ibu Darul Aman (KIDA), empowerNCER, entrepreneurNCER, NCER Talent Enhancement Programme (NTEP) and *Dana Usahawan Bumiputera* (DUB). These programmes in Perak are targeting to create over 7,500 jobs and entrepreneurship opportunities this year.

NCIA has customised existing human capital programmes to empower the Orang Asli communities to develop a sustainable income within their communities. Youth among the Orang Asli are selected to participate in courses such as motorcycle maintenance, electrical & plumbing courses, hairdressing, sewing & fashion design, spa & therapy, baking and pastry courses that are provided with guidance in entrepreneurship.

EmpowerNCER-Academic is comprehensively designed to improve student achievements in SPM examination by emphasizing the components of academic excellence, skills competency and personal-development of students from the B40 Group and Orang Asli families.

A total of 2250 students enrolled in Year 5 have been selected from 15 districts throughout NCER, including 300 Orang Asli students from three districts in Perak to increase their levels of reading, writing and arithmetic (3M) in an effort help them perform

better in examinations. This programme is further enhanced through collaboration with Yayasan MyKasih to incorporate Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) learning with robotics and Aquaponic Projects.

"This specially designed integrated approach involving Strategic High-Impact projects and Human Capital Programmes will be able to reduce economic imbalances, therefore supporting the Government's plan to reduce poverty and ensuring the economic well-being of the people, especially in NCER, continues to grow rapidly," added NCIA Chief Executive, Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John.

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NOTE TO EDITORS:

About NCIA

The Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) is a regional development authority responsible for establishing directions, devising policies and strategies related to the socioeconomic development of the Northern Corridor Economic Region (NCER). Incorporated in June 2008 under the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority Act 2008 (Act 687), NCER encompasses the four northern states of Kedah, Penang, Perak and Perlis in Peninsular Malaysia. NCIA's Chief Executive is Datuk Seri Jebasingam Issace John.

NCIA drives the growth of NCER towards becoming an excellent economic region while catalysing and implementing high value-added development programmes in six (6) economic clusters: Manufacturing, Agribusiness, Petrochemical, Mining, Green Economy and Services (Inc. Tourism; Logistics and Connectivity; and Digital Economy).

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ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON NCER STRATEGIC PROJECTS

Chuping Valley Industrial Area (CVIA):

An industrial park that is focusing manufacturing of halal industries, green manufacturing, and renewable energy generation

NCER Technology Innovation Centre (NTIC):

NTIC is expected to drive the industrial ecosystem through the strengthening of high value-added activities

Kedah Rubber City (KRC):








An industrial park which is focussing on rubber clusters. Part of IMG-GT Rubber Cities Initiative.

Silver Valley Technology Park (SVTP):

SVTP will serve as a platform to facilitate the development or emerging applied technologies

I-CON@NCER: This is the new approach to reduce disparity gap between urban & rural areas by unlocking the potential less developed areas (LDAs). Yan, Sik, Baling, Kedah & PengkalanHulu in Perak have been identified as pilot projects.

Details of NCIA Human Capital Programmes:

Human Capital Programme	Brief Description
	<p>KIDA was introduced in Kedah to help single mothers and housewives who do not have a fixed income to manage and cover their family expenses. Through this program, they receive financial assistance to purchase necessities such as rice, sugar, salt, flour, bread, cooking oil, beef, chicken, fish, vegetables, disposable diapers, dairy products and school supplies. Participants are also eligible for health care treatment and services.</p> <p>This programme is planned to be expanded to Perak and Perlis in RMK-12.</p>
	<p>A skills and entrepreneurship development programme for youth, women, unemployed graduates in B40 group and Orang Asli to increase their income through job placement or entrepreneurship; and an Academic programme for weak performing students to prevent future poor.</p>
	<p>Programme for micro enterprises and SMEs which provides top-up on bank loan interest through collaboration with Maybank and Agrobank, as well as coaching to facilitate their business growth.</p>
	<p>This programme is implemented to support companies and businesses that are employing human resources, investing and expanding in NCER. The participating companies are given incentives and access to a varied talent pool comprising fresh graduates, youths, women and retrenched workers to meet their operational needs.</p> <p>The opportunities accord better quality of life and ensure a skilled workforce that matches industry needs within NCER. Through this programme, companies are encouraged to hire local workforce who will receive high quality skills training and soft skills trainings to enhance their competency.</p>
	<p>The JomNiaga@NCER is aimed at youths, women, microenterprises, and retrenched workers in the B40 category. As an inclusive human capital programme, the focus will be on modular trainings that will be conducted up to three (3) months to enable the participants generate immediate income. The technical, skilled, and semi-skilled courses will be customised to help participants gain higher income in a short period, as well as enable start-up of businesses with low start-up capital.</p> <p>Participants will be equipped with basic entrepreneurship, training and digital literacy, to enhance their skills and competitiveness in e-commerce platforms. Retrenched workers also stand to gain from this programme to earn income and eventually start their own business with low start-up capital.</p>
	<p>Enhance marketability and provide job opportunities for unemployed graduates and retrenched workers through human capital incentives to the industries.</p>
	<p>Tipping point for eligible Bumiputera companies in the form of grants up to 15% or maximum of RM2 million from cost of project.</p>