

## Skills development programme lauded

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Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) president Datuk Syed Hussain Syed Husman.

KUALA LUMPUR: Nearly one million people are expected to benefit from upskilling and reskilling training programmes, this year, through several initiatives by the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp).

The plan is to drive the nation's employment and industrial training placements, career coaching, counselling and developing income generating opportunities for Malaysians.

In lauding the move, Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) president Datuk Syed Hussain Syed Husman said HRD Corp's role as a central agency for human capital development would benefit many from a diverse range of skillsets, backgrounds and capabilities.

"HRD Corp is in a unique position and entrusted to deliver its tasks through an integrated platform or 'single window' for Malaysians, to search and apply for skills development programmes offered by the government.

"In the past 18 months, HRD Corp introduced various programmes to preserve existing jobs and create new jobs for the people," he said in a statement.

He added that HRD Corp's national economic recovery plan (Penjana) had helped close to 100,000 participants through five main schemes - namely 'Place and Train', 'B40 Development', 'Gerak Insan Gemilang' (GIG) and 'SME Development'.

HRD Corp, he said, had also introduced the free online training hub e-LATiH, which has more than 154,000 registered participants.

Syed Hussain also welcomed the 'Seniors Back In Action' (SEBA) scheme for senior citizens that targeted those aged 60 years and above, to generate income and provide employment for retirees.

"They will be able to participate in value-added relevant training courses required by the employers and industries.

"The scheme offers income generation programmes and job offers that are more productive and in line with the needs of retirees.

"It aims to increase recruitment of retirees as well as to utilise retirees' skills and their past experience," he said.

He added that the SEBA scheme would further assist the rakyat to earn and have a decent old-age live, going forward.

"These will to a certain extent address the low savings in their Employees Provident Fund for some of its members," he said.

Similarly, he said, the 'Housewives Enhancement and Reactivate Talent Scheme' was developed by HRD Corp in collaboration with the Women's Development Department, to help housewives and single mothers by providing them with income-generation and employment opportunities.

"This programme is critical as many Malaysian women dropped their career midway and needed assistance to make a career comeback later.

"The programme also provides a platform for housewives and single mothers to earn income outside their traditional employment, either through formal employment or self-employment.

"The programme provides training opportunities with specialised skills such as social and economic improvement and technological advancement to achieve economic stability," Syed Hussain said.

On another note, he said the 'OKU Talent Enhancement Programme' (OTEP) was an initiative of HRD Corp, in collaboration with the Social Welfare Department, to help people with disabilities (PWD).

The OTEP, he said, provided them with income-generation and employment opportunities to become more productive and independent, as well as to equip them with the appropriate skills.

"It also contributes to the development of human capital and the national economy, holistically.

"OTEP provides awareness and readiness to the community on the acceptance of PWD in the workplace.

"This will help realise the objectives of providing them with at least 1 per cent of job placements, both in the public and private sector."