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Harrods

HARRODS OFFERS 15 TRAINING PLACES FOR MALAYSIANS

SERDANG, June 1 (Bernama) -- Britain's leading shopping store Harrods has offered 15 management and marketing training places for Malaysians including four participants of the Graduates Entrepreneur Scheme (GES).

Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed said today the offer was made following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's initiative when Harrods owner Mohamed Al-Fayed visited Malaysia last February.

Al-Fayed who has close ties with Dr Mahathir, had agreed to the Prime Minister's suggestion and was willing to offer training places to Malaysians.

"The Entrepreneur Development Ministry has been entrusted to identify eligible candidates to attend the executive assistant manager's training at Harrods," he said after the launching of the GES and the signing of the memorandums of understanding between the ministry and 14 companies which joined the scheme.

He said the 15 people would undergo training from six to 24 months with Harrods providing between 700 and 800 British pounds in allowance for each of them.

They were scheduled to leave for London end of this month, he said. -- Mustapa said 11 of them were those experienced in shopping complex management and marketing with the remainder from the GES programme.

Harrods is the only foreign company so far to have offered training for the GES participants apart from 36 local firms, Mustapa said.

On the GES introduced on April 1 this year, he said the ministry conducted a five-day course for the first batch of 29 participants last Monday.

He said the government had set aside RM10 million for the GES programme through Bank Pembangunan and graduates accepted into the programme could apply for loans of between RM20,000 and RM100,000.

The ministry had received more than 1,000 applications from graduates but priority was given to those who recently graduated, he said, adding 500 training places had been identified so far.

Meanwhile two graduates who will be undergoing training at Harrods said they would make full use of the opportunity.

Siti Nooraini, 25, a bachelor in information systems management from Northern Illinois University, United States said she hoped to venture into business upon the completion of the training.

Ahmad Ambar, who graduated with the bachelor in Business and Entrepreneurship from Britain's Wolverhampton University said he planned to set up his own business after training at the world renowned shopping mall.

-- BERNAMA

NHD ZUL AAM