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Orang Asli-Skills

SPECIAL TRAINING CENTRE FOR ORANG ASLI YOUTH

By: Rashidah Abdul Ghani

KUALA LUMPUR, May 27 (Bernama) -- A special centre to train Orang Asli Youth in the field of construction and related skills has been set up at the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli Settlement at the behest of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The Prime Minister wants as many Orang Asli Youth as possible to be provided with the necessary skills required in the construction industry, according to the developer of part of the Orang Asli land in Bukit Lanjan, Saujana Triangle Sdn Bhd, a member of the Emkay Group.

Under a Memorandum of Understanding which the developer signed with the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli Community recently, the company had also provided an initial allocation of RM200,000 to provide skills training to the Orang Asli youth.

Sixteen Orang Asli youths will form the first batch to pass out from the centre in September.

To date, the batch had completed training in three trades -- bricklaying, plastering and tiling and are now in the midst of the fourth course which is backhoe loader operation.

"When this group of Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli Youth had acquired the skills and experience, it is hoped they will progress further and become skilled tradesmen and ultimately emerge as contractors or businessmen," said General Manager (Corporate Affairs) of Saujana Triangle, Abdullah Latiff at a media briefing ahead of the Prime Minister's visit to the centre next month.

Abdullah said the skills training would enable them to be gainfully employed in the construction industry and make it possible for more of them to enter the mainstream of Malaysian society with greater confidence.

The one-year-training programme is conducted by the Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB), through its training arm Akademi Binaan Malaysia (Selangor) Sdn Bhd.

"The training is competency based that means they will continue learning until they are competent in the specific building trades," he said.

The youths would also attend on the job training at construction sites under the joint supervision of the board and the contractor concerned.

The Emkay Group has made arrangements with all its appointed contractors to provide on the job training to the Orang Asli Youths and to employ those who had successfully completed the training programme in projects under the Group.

With this arrangement, the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli youth would be assured of being gainfully employed and getting involved in small business ventures, Abdullah said.

Under the MOU, Saujana Triangle apart from developing the 641 acres of Orang Asli land alienated, for various projects, would also make financial allocations for the benefit of the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli community, provide modern housing in the form of 147 single storey bungalows and also set aside a sum of RM7.9 million for the education fund of the Bukit Lanjan Orang Asli children.

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