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RM500,000 set aside to train Orang Asli youths

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Construction Industry Development Board has allocated RM500,000 to train Orang Asli youths nationwide in various skills in the sector.

Its chief executive Prof Datuk Abdul Rahman Abdullah said today the programme would be modelled after a pilot project which focussed on 17 Orang Asli youths at the Saujana Triangle Sdn Bhd development site in Bukit Lanjan.

"They will be equipped with skills for the construction industry, including bricklaying, plastering, tiling, plumbing, carpentry and backhoe operations."

Abdul Rahman said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad would present CIDB certificates of competency to the 17 who had completed the training in a ceremony on June 22 at the Bukit Lanjan site.

"Dr Mahathir will also meet about 600 Orang Asli representatives from around the country at the ceremony," he said.

The pilot project was organised by the Selangor State Government, CIDB, Saujana Triangle (a subsidiary of the Emkay Group), Akademi Binaan Malaysia (Selangor) Sdn Bhd, the Village Development and Safety Committee and the Lembaga Adat Orang Asli of Bukit Lanjan.

Abdul Rahman said the training would help integrate Orang Asli youths into the mainstream economy while also reducing the sector's dependence on foreign labour.

In another measure to enhance the integrity of the industry, Abdul Rahman announced that it will be mandatory for all construction workers to register with the CIDB.

From the beginning of CIDB's registration exercise to the end of last year, only about 74,405 workers had registered.

He added that this comprised only about 12 per cent of all construction workers in the country. These included 71,645 local and 2,760 foreign workers.

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