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PROSPER-PUNB  
MORE "PROSPER" ENTREPRENEURS CERTIFIED

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 4 (Bernama) -- Eighty-one individuals with a combined total investment of RM24 million - thus stands the current "score" of the government's Prosper plan to cultivate the growth of qualified Bumiputera entrepreneurs under one of the many schemes that have been (and will continue to be) set up in line with plans and policies to achieve sustained growth and development in a free and independent Malaysia.

By the end of 2002, the aim of the scheme is to produce a grand total of 350 entrepreneurs.

Giving this updated perspective on the situation today, the CEO of the national entrepreneur corporation, Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Bhd (PUNB) Mohd Nasir Ahmad said the Prosper (Project Usahawan Bumiputera Dalam Bidang Peruncitan) scheme represented a special effort by the government to promote the greater participation of Bumiputera people in the country's retail trades.

The official was speaking in connection with the signing of an agreement between PUNB and Accountants Online Sdn Bhd for the latter to provide financial applications services to facilitate the keeping of accounts by the Prosper-trained retailers.

Each month, an average of 350 aspiring Bumiputera entrepreneurs register themselves for induction and training courses under the scheme, Mohd Nasir said.

Since the scheme was launched by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug. 2, 2000 more than 11,000 individuals have registered their names.

Out of the 11,000 applicants, 81 were trained and qualified through the conduct of 40 operating projects.

According to the economic advisor (finance) to the Prime Minister, Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop, every retailer operating under the Prosper scheme must earn at least RM3,000-RM5,000 a month in net income. -- BERNAMA

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