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13 NGOs get RM20m to boost Bumi businesses

TIMELY: Teraju to monitor their accounts, says Najib

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THIRTEEN non-governmental organisations (NGOs) have been chosen to carry out Bumiputera entrepreneur development activities, using a special fund with an allocation of RM20 million announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday.

He said having such an allocation through the Unit Peneraju Agenda

Bumiputera (Teraju) was timely, as it was much needed by NGOs to empower the Bumiputera economy.

"The selected NGOs will have the key performance index (set by Teraju) and their accounts will be monitored by Teraju.

"We will also keep tabs on the effectiveness of programmes carried out by the NGOs and hope such activities will complement the government's efforts," he said before handing over the letter of appointment to the 13 NGOs, dubbed as Teraju service delivery partners.

The NGOs are the Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia, Malay Chamber of Commerce Malaysia (Putrajaya), Gagasan Badan Ekonomi Melayu, Malay Businessmen and Industrialists Association, Malay Contractors Association Malaysia, Association of Bumiputera Women in Business and Profession

Malaysia, Malaysia Bumiputera Women Entrepreneurs, Malay Economic Action Council, Young Entrepreneur Organisation Malaysia, Dewan Usahawan Bumiputera Negeri Sabah, Kadazan Dusun Sabah Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Dewan Usahawan Bumiputera Sarawak and Dayak Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Present were Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Dr Ali Hamsa, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar and Teraju chief executive officer Datuk Husni Salleh.

Najib said the programme should not be expected to last forever, instead, it had a "shelf life".

In this respect, he said, one must use the facility to empower the Bu-

miputera agenda collectively and through integrated measures.

Najib, who earlier chaired the Bumiputera Economic Council (MEB) meeting, said there were many applications from government agencies, ministries as well as personal letters addressed to him for financial assistance.

"To strengthen cooperation with the NGOs, MEB boosted their roles through development, outreach, funding and research programmes.

Najib added that Teraju had organised engagements with the NGOs to obtain feedback and suggestions to improve programmes and initiatives for the Bumiputera development programmes since 2011.

→ For report on ALMA Education Foundation, go to www.nst.com.my

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