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PM to unveil Mara blueprint for next 50 years



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FORMIDABLE FORCE: Agency aims to bolster nation's entrepreneurial spirit

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak is expected to unveil next month Majlis Amanah Rakyat's (Mara) blueprint for the next 50 years, which will stress on creating more entrepreneurs as well as bolster entrepreneurial spirit in the country.

Mara, or Council of Trust for the People, an agency under the purview of the Rural and Regional Development Ministry, was established on March 1, 1966, as a statutory body by an act of Parliament and tasked with nurturing and spearheading Malay and Bumiputera aspirations to become a formidable force in entrepreneurship, education, investment and equity ownership.

Mara director-general Datuk Ibrahim Ahmad said the development of Mara in the next 50 years was all about nurturing knowledgeable people into becoming more technology driven, and to create a more creative society that churns out more innovations.

"While unveiling the blueprint, the prime minister is also expected to make a special announcement," Ibrahim told the *New Straits Times* in an interview at its headquarters recently.

"There will also be an emphasis on creating more entrepreneurs, leading to a more entrepreneurial society.

"Thus, Mara has to be strengthened into an entrepreneur-centric organisation."

Ibrahim said part of its plans included human capital investment because the agency has always stressed on the three Cs — capacity, capability and character-building.

"This will enable us to produce successful Mara officers which, in turn, can teach and lead our new generation forward.

"We also have a premier training programme called the Top Executive Programme, where we send our top-performing officers with the highest key performance indicators to overseas universities, including Harvard University in the United States.

"For an organisation to stay successful, we must invest in human capital," said Ibrahim. Additional reporting by Lidiana Rosli



Mara director-general Datuk Ibrahim Ahmad says to be successful, an organisation must invest in human capital. Pic by Khairull Azry Bidin