

500,257 people hired via govt actions

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KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 500,257 job-seekers have managed to secure work through 27 initiatives implemented by the government up to Dec 3, surpassing the target of creating 500,000 jobs set by the Finance Ministry in the 2021 Budget.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said it was a meaningful achievement considering the various challenges facing the labour market due to the Covid-19 pandemic since March last year, which resulted in the unemployment rate soaring to 5.3 per cent in May the same year.

Among the key initiatives that contributed to this success, he said, were the hiring incentive programme, PenjanaKerjaya, and the Malaysia Short-Term Employment Programme (MySTEP).

"Up to Dec 3, PenjanaKerjaya 2.0 has provided placement for 221,966 employees, exceeding the overall target of 200,000 jobs for this year.

"PenjanaKerjaya is run by the Social Security Organisation

(Socso), which provides salary incentives of up to 60 per cent of workers' monthly salary to employers, as well as high skills training programmes or professional certificates to employees of up to RM7,000," he said yesterday.

The RM700 million government initiative, MySTEP, surpassed the overall target of creating 50,000 jobs this year with the placement of 61,328 employees on a contract basis for at least six months in various ministries and government agencies, as well as government-linked companies (GLCs).

Of that number, 41,680 people were given placement in the public sector, while the remaining 19,648 in GLCs and their strategic partners.

"Under the programme, applicants are placed at ministries and agencies (and GLCs), such as the Finance Ministry, Higher Education Ministry, Public Service Commission, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Petro-

liam Nasional Bhd, Permodalan Nasional Bhd, Employees Provident Fund and Khazanah Nasional.

"Since PenjanaKerjaya 2.0 and MySTEP were implemented last January, the number of jobs created had always exceeded the monthly target," he said.

Ismail Sabri said that apart from PenjanaKerjaya 2.0 and MySTEP, the government had managed to create more than 123,312 jobs through investments in the country with 74.2 per cent of them in the skilled and semi-skilled categories.

Ismail Sabri said under the 2022 Budget, the government would create 600,000 jobs under the JaminKerja Keluarga Malaysia (JaminKerja) initiative, which would involve an allocation of RM4.8 billion.

"The government, through Socso, will continue its recruitment efforts through JaminKerja with an allocation of RM2 billion and will provide an incentive of 20 per cent of the monthly salary for



People exiting the light rail transit station at Masjid Jamek in Kuala Lumpur in September. The government hopes to create hundreds of thousands of jobs next year. FILE PIC

the first six months and 30 per cent for the subsequent six months subject to employment with a salary of RM1,500 and above.

"The government hopes this can create 300,000 jobs next year," he said.

The government will continue with MySTEP by offering 80,000 contract employment opportunities covering 50,000 jobs in the public sector and 30,000 jobs in GLCs and their strategic partners from January next year.

Ismail Sabri expressed confidence that the strategy formulat-

ed by the National Employment Council (NEC) could continue the job creation momentum, in line with the recovery and reopening of economic sectors.

He said the NEC would strive to address the worker shortage and employment-related issues as well as provide equal opportunities for vulnerable groups.

"This development can indirectly strengthen the household income of the Malaysian Family, especially the *asnaf* (those eligible to receive tithe) and those in the Bottom 40 and Middle 40 income groups." **Bernama**