

HRD Corp is central agency for human capital development

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by S BIRRUNTHA

THE Human Resource Development Corp (HRD Corp) will shoulder the responsibility as the central agency for all human capital development programmes in Malaysia, in line with the agency's new branding.

Prime Minister (PM) Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday launched the new name and brand identity for HRD Corp at the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Previously, the agency was known as the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF), under the purview of the Human Resources Ministry (MoHR) that works to collect levy from registered employers and disburse training grants for employee training and upskilling.

In his speech, Ismail Sabri said HRD Corp has been at the forefront of developing a highly skilled knowledge-based workforce in Malaysia for the past three decades. He hoped that HRD Corp



Pic by Muhd Amin Naharur

Ismail Sabri says in line with its expanded role, HRD Corp will be the lead agency for managing UpskillMalaysia

would continue to support human capital development efforts through more upskilling and reskilling programmes for the benefit of Malaysians.

"I am pleased to announce that all Malaysian human capital and skills development programmes will be placed under the MoHR and managed centrally by HRD Corp.

"This enables the government to embark on a more cohesive, structured and efficient talent development strategy that can drive Malaysia's post-pandemic economic recovery," he noted.

At the same event, the PM also officiated the country's first national single window platform, UpskillMalaysia, which will feature a comprehensive list of skills training and development programmes offered by the government.

Ismail Sabri said in line with its expanded role, HRD Corp will be the lead agency for managing UpskillMalaysia, the national single window platform for all upskilling, re-skilling, multi-skilling and cross-skilling programmes offered and funded by various government ministries and agencies.

He added that to date, UpskillMalaysia has hosted over 200 programmes in 35 skills areas that are offered by 28 ministries and agencies.

He also noted that the government aims to train 220,000 Malaysians through the integrated platform by the end of 2022 and more courses and agencies will be added soon.

Meanwhile, Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M Saravanan expressed his appreciation to the PM who recognised the MoHR and HRD Corp as the primary custodian of Malaysia's human capital development initiatives.

He highlighted that HRD Corp's success and longevity in the last 28 years is testament to its ability to adapt and evolve to not only stay ahead of but also successfully support Malaysia's economic and human capital development needs.

"This new responsibility came at a timely moment in HRD Corp's history as it has also expanded its levy programme to cover 18 sectors and 238 subsectors, compared to only three sectors and 63 subsectors previously.

"This will enable HRD Corp to support up to 6.1 million employees in the next five years," he said.

HRD Corp has embarked on

numerous strategic initiatives and partnerships in the past year.

In the last 18 months, the agency has expanded its role to support the skills development, employment and income generation needs of Malaysians from all walks of life in order to mitigate the socio-economic impact brought forth by the pandemic.

HRD Corp also introduced the Penjana HRDF programme in June 2020, with a funding of over RM500 million, which has benefited close to 100,000 participants to date.

Additionally, the agency launched its free online learning platform e-LATiH which has received a cumulative enrolment of 370,000 in all its courses; and developed the HRD Corp Placement Centre which offers close to 40,000 employment and placement opportunities with some of Malaysia's leading employers.

Most recently, HRD Corp announced its Second Chances and Opportunities for People to Excel in collaboration with the Malaysian Prisons Department to provide training and employment to former detainees.

The agency is expected to roll out similar programmes to support senior citizens, single mothers and bottom 40% women, as well as persons with disabilities soon.