

Job market on the mend, says PM

'Target of creating 500,000 placements surpassed via various govt initiatives'

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KUALA LUMPUR: A total of 500,257 job seekers have managed to secure jobs through 27 initiatives implemented by the government as of Dec 3.

This has surpassed the target of creating 500,000 job opportunities set by the Finance Ministry under Budget 2021, says Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He added it was a very 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% in May the same year, Bernama reported.

Among the key initiatives that have contributed to this success, he said, are the hiring incentive programme PenjanaKerjaya and the

Malaysia Short-Term Employment Programme (MySTEP).

"As at Dec 3, PenjanaKerjaya 2.0 has succeeded in providing placements for 221,966 employees, exceeding the overall target of 200,000 job opportunities for 2021.

"PenjanaKerjaya is run by Socso, which provides salary incentives of up to 60% of the monthly salary to employers, as well as high skills training programmes or professional certificates to employees of up to RM7,000," he said in a statement here yesterday.

The RM700mil government initiative MySTEP also surpassed its overall target this year with the placement of 61,328 employees on a contract basis for at least six months in various government ministries and agencies, as well as govern-

ment-linked companies (GLCs).

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

"Under the programme, applicants are placed at various ministries and agencies, such as the Finance and Higher Education Ministries, Public Service Commission, Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission, Petronas, Permodalan Nasional Bhd, Employees Provident Fund and Khazanah Nasional," said Ismail Sabri.

He added that apart from PenjanaKerjaya 2.0 and MySTEP, the government had also managed to create more than 123,312 new jobs through investments in the country with 74.2% of

them in the skilled and semi-skilled categories.

He said under Budget 2022, the government would create 600,000 job opportunities under the JaminKerja Keluarga Malaysia (JaminKerja) initiative, which would involve an allocation of RM4.8bil.

"The government through Socso will continue its recruitment efforts through the JaminKerja initiative with an allocation of RM2bil.

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

Apart from that, the government will also continue with the MySTEP initiative by offering 80,000 contract employment opportunities comprising 50,000 jobs in the public sector and 30,000 jobs in GLCs and

their strategic partners from January next year.

The Prime Minister expressed confidence that the strategy formulated by the National Employment Council (NEC) will be able to continue the momentum of job creation in the country in line with the recovery and opening up of various economic sectors.

He said NEC would also strive to address related issues, such as the shortage of workers in certain sectors, providing equal opportunities for the vulnerable, as well as employment-related issues.

"This development can indirectly strengthen the household income of the Malaysian Family, especially the asnaf (those eligible to receive tithe), B40 and M40 groups," he said.