

# DRONE ECONOMY BOOST BY PENJANA

'Agency to develop drone technology should be set up'

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THE government's upskilling and reskilling initiative, launched under the Economic Recovery Plan (Penjana), has boosted the drone economy, with huge potential in producing skilled workforce.

These efforts were the focus of Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday when he attended a briefing at SG Academy, an upskilling and reskilling centre under the SG Education Group (SGEG).

The group is an accredited training provider for drone economy-related courses under the Social Security Organisation's (Socso) Penjana Kerjaya programme.

SGEG founder Datuk Seri P. Ganes said the drone economy was not only limited to device operations, but also included maintenance, data platform development and consultancy.

However, he lamented the limited teaching resources for the technology in Malaysia.

"We want to produce more skilled workers who are innovators and can create borderless employment, allowing people to work abroad.

"Public-private partnership is one way to address this and equip youth with skills for this purpose.

"There is a need to relook at a proposed law governing the drone industry (mooted last year), which has huge potential in security and surveillance; and agriculture," he said after Muhyiddin's visit.

He said these efforts were in line with the country's aspiration under the Fourth Industrial Revolution (IR4.0).

Ganes said the Civil Aviation Authority of Malaysia (CAAM) was reviewing the draft of the law as it involved many sectors.

"I have proposed the establishment of (a government) agency to develop drone technology. The matter was highlighted to the prime minister during his visit."

He said youth should have more exposure of the industry at school level through Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education.

One of the course participants was Deveness Rao Pragaisrow, a



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin talking with drone course participants at SG Academy in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. With him are Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan (left) and academy founder Datuk Seri P. Ganes (right). PIC BY MOHAMAD SHAHRIL BADRI SAALI

former AirAsia senior first officer.

"Having work experience in the aviation industry, I only have basic knowledge about drones.

"The course helped me improve my knowledge and I am hopeful to secure a job in this sector soon."

SGEG has trained more than 70

participants under Penjana Kerjaya, and all have been employed.

The academy is the first TVET institute to offer drone skill certificate programme for Level 2 Drone Piloting H512-001-3: 2019 and Level 3 Drone Mission Commanding H512-001-3: 2019 under the National Occupational Skills

Standards (NOSS), which was co-created with CAAM.

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF), which was established in 2001, has also trained 80 participants in the field, and they have been hired by companies such as Asia Drone and IoT Technologies, Dronology, Malvus and Sonic Films.