

INVESTMENT COMMITMENTS

PM: 12 PROGRAMMES YIELDED 150,597 JOBS

Muhyiddin says the numbers have exceeded cumulative projection up to April

KUALA LUMPUR

A TOTAL of 150,597 job seekers were employed through 12 programmes implemented by the government up to April 23, said Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin.

In a Facebook post, the prime minister said the numbers had exceeded the cumulative projection up to April, with the government targeting to create 500,000 jobs this year.

"The government's efforts to increase investments in the country have created 33,907 new jobs, with 76 per cent of them in the skilled and semi-skilled categories. This was part of the target to create 160,000 new jobs, as a result of investment commitments this year."

Muhyiddin earlier chaired the third meeting of the National Employment Council (NEC) via a video conference.

During the meeting, he was briefed on the employment retention initiatives under the Economic Recovery Plan.

He said the UP Career Programme, which was launched on April 12 for the urban and hard-

core poor, had assisted 489 applicants to get jobs.

"As such, the council has agreed to expand this programme aggressively with a broader target to assist the socio-economy of this group, and subsequently to get (them) out of poverty.

"Overall, the job placement initiatives and new job creation through investment commitments have surpassed the set targets."

Muhyiddin was also briefed on employment issues and challenges in the informal sector.

"Based on the 6,202 engagement programmes conducted, the number of self-employed individuals, including gig workers, who received social safety protection from the Social Security Organisation has increased from 71,000 individuals in 2019 to 81,000 (last year) and 142,000 this year."

He said Grab Malaysia had presented a strategy to strengthen the domestic economy through digitalisation.

"The four proposed programmes are capable of providing more than 35,000 income-generating opportunities for e-hailing employees, the disabled, as well as traders in public markets and food and beverage enterprises."

Muhyiddin said the meeting also took note of the difficulties faced by the disabled and the vulnerable in getting access to income-generating opportunities.

"As such, the NEC has request-

ed the Transport Ministry, the Women, Family, and Community Development Ministry and the local authorities to review measures, including legal provisions, to ensure the initiative can be carried out promptly."

Muhyiddin said the planning and key strategy formulation phase was completed in the first quarter of this year.

"The focus now is on the implementation measures. Therefore, I have reminded the ministries and government agencies to give attention and priority to matters related to employment initiatives.

"The NEC is a key performance index-driven initiative. Hence, there should be a sense of urgency on this matter as one of our main focuses this year is to provide employment opportunities and to generate income for the people."

In the same post, Muhyiddin announced the appointment of three new members from the financial, entrepreneurship and innovation sectors to the NEC.

The move, he said, was to further strengthen the composition of the NEC membership and to be more inclusive.

The three members are Maybank Investment Bank Bhd board member Datuk Seri Sharifah Sofianyy Syed Hussain, Association of Bumiputera Women in Business and Profession (Peniaga-wati) president Datuk Azlin Ahmad Shaharbi and GoGet co-founder Francesca Chia.