

PM: MORE JOBS AS ECONOMY IMPROVES

JaminKerja on track to create 600,000 employment opportunities this year, says Ismail Sabri

FARAH SOLHI
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE country's economy is improving, with 42,166 people finding new employment and 1,200 jobs created in January.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday said this achievement showed that the Jamin Kerja Keluarga Malaysia (JaminKerja) initiative was on track to create 600,000 jobs this year.

Ismail Sabri said the government, together with its agencies and the private sector, created 558,633 jobs last year, which was 12 per cent over the target.

He said he was confident that a higher percentage could be achieved in 2022.

Ismail Sabri said there were three JaminKerja initiatives this year: the JaminKerja Hiring In-

centive, the Malaysia Short-term Employment Programme (MySTEP) and Training and Skills Development Programme.

The National Employment Council (NEC), he said, had agreed to target 300,000 job placements under the JaminKerja Hiring Incentives, 22,000 under the Training and Skills Development Programme and 80,000 under MySTEP.

Five special task forces, chaired by secretaries-general of the respective ministries, would be set up to achieve these targets, he said.

Ismail Sabri, who is also NEC chairman, said the council had studied and discussed strategies to reduce dependence on foreign workers.

"The multi-tiered levy system as well as quotas system could be a step to address this issue.

"Support from employers is also necessary to offset the impact of post-pandemic workforce shortage," he said.

The prime minister said the Human Resources Ministry had been instructed to draft a strategy to create more jobs for youths, as unemployment among the group was at 80.3 per cent.

Ismail said the government re-

iterated its stance to expose Form 1 students to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to help them make choices based on their interests.

"TVET's promotional and re-branding campaigns will be done comprehensively to eliminate the perception that TVET is a 'second-class education', and it will be empowered so that it will be a career of choice."

He said the government would improve the employment ecosystem by creating a one-stop job placement centre to monitor job-seekers applications.

"This ecosystem will complement the MYFUTUREJOBS platform to make it more convenient for employers to offer jobs, while jobseekers get to register on the platform and get a date for a job interview.

"The government is confident that the strategy by the NEC will continue the momentum of job creation in the country, in line with the recovery and opening up of various economic sectors.

"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," he said.