

Teraju to train 1,100 top bumi SMEs
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 5 — Bumiputera development agency Teraju will take 1000 of the top small/micro size bumi companies and 100 of the top medium size bumi companies under its wing to undergo a special entrepreneurship programme said Pemandu today.

The initiative, called the High Performing Bumi SME Entrepreneurship Programme is part of the Narrowing Disparities/Bumi SMEs strategic reform initiative (SRI) launched here today.



Pemandu CEO Datuk Seri Idris Jala **(picture)** said that the SRI would focus on how the government could develop bumi SMEs to promote wealth generation amongst the bumiputeras.

“Once one cohort graduates, we will take in a new one,” he said in a briefing to the media. “In 10 years we would have created many competent bumi SMEs,”

Pemandu said that the selection of the bumi SMEs for the programme is expected to transparent and fair.

The criteria include a minimum 50 per cent of revenue from non-government sources, a strong trend toward profitability in the last 2-5 years, and a preference for those with a management team that has a mix of bumi and non-bumi.

There will also be clear exit and graduation criteria whereby companies that become large will no longer be eligible while those that miss key milestones will drop out of the programme.

The High Performing Bumi SME Entrepreneurship Programme SRI is one of six SRIs that were derived from the recommendations of the National Economic Advisory Council (NEAC) for the New Economic Model.

This SRI is likely to be considered one of the more controversial aspects of the government's reform efforts as race based affirmative action was the source of much public wrangling last year with vocal Malay group Perkasa accusing the NEAC of neglecting the bumiputera community.

Critics of such race based affirmative action programmes however say that it erodes the nation's competitive spirit.

The other SRIs launched today were International Standards and Liberalisation, Public Finance, Human Capital Development, Government's Role in Business and Public Service Delivery.

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