

Five Collaboration Programmes to Boost Bumiputra Participation in Halal Industry - Ahmad Zahid

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 29 (Bernama) -- Five collaboration programmes will be created to boost Bumiputra involvement in the halal industry with the cooperation of several related government ministries and agencies.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who is also the Malaysian Halal Council chairman, said the programmes were vendor development, global halal data sharing, kitchen incubation and guidance to companies which failed to get halal certificate and halal franchises.

"I give my assurance the Malaysian government is the only government which fully supports and is committed in the effort to develop the Malaysian halal industry compared to other nations," he said when delivering his keynote address at the Bumiputra and the Halal Industry Forum at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) tower here, today.

He said among the government agencies which would be involved were Malaysian Islamic Development Department (JAKIM), MITI's Small and Medium Industry and Bumiputra Entrepreneurship Division, Mara and the Perbadanan Nasional Berhad Academy under the Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Ministry.

He said numerous collaboration programmes would be announced soon and he hoped there would be more Bumiputra involvement in the halal-related initiatives and programmes organised.

"The halal industry development agenda, which is also part of the strategic industries under the 11th Malaysia Plan, is given priority by the government in line with its vision to make Malaysia a Global Halal Hub," he said.

Ahmad Zahid said, of the RM31 billion in halal exports as of September 2015, only RM579 million halal products were manufactured by Bumiputra companies, Bumiputra local large companies (RM1.4 billion) and non-Bumiputra small and medium companies (RM3.9 billion) compared to exports worth RM25.3 billion or 81 per cent which were contributed by multinational companies.

He said more than 90 per cent of Bumiputra operations were micro companies operating without halal certificates while those having halal certificates among Bumiputras were mostly food premises and small companies.

Meanwhile, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said the Halal Industry Development Corporation (HDC) would cooperate closely with JAKIM and several other government agencies at state level to strengthen the national halal industry.

He said the Malaysia Halal Council would help coordinate more joint programmes between MITI, JAKIM under the Prime Minister's Department and related agencies at state level.

"One of the Deputy Prime Minister's priorities is to internationalise the halal industry, he himself is not satisfied with the efforts being done to date and the main focus in future is to take Malaysian companies out so that the exporters of Malaysian brands with the halal certificate are at the forefront," he said.

He said via the collaboration programmes to be carried out, several small companies would be merged with multinational companies headed by MITI and, similarly, the data bases of small companies would be merged with multinational companies.

For the incubator programme, he said it was aimed at boosting capacity building while JAKIM's guidance would help those companies, which failed to get halal certification, to do so.

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