

MED eyes 45 pct SME contribution to GDP in 5 years

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ALOR GAJAH, Nov 16 -- The Ministry of Entrepreneur Development (MED) aims to raise the contribution of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to gross domestic product to 45 per cent from 38.3 per cent currently within five years with the implementation of the National Entrepreneurship Policy 2030 (NEP 2030) this year.

Minister Datuk Seri Mohd Redzuan Yusof said for 2030, the target is to further raise the GDP contribution to 50 per cent.

"At the ministry level, we provide assistance, guidance and training to SME entrepreneurs, and help them understand the NEP 2030 so that this objective can be achieved," he told reporters after opening a state-level cooperative entrepreneurship carnival here today.

Also present were state Agriculture, Agro-based, Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives Committee chairman Datuk Norhizam Hassan Baktee and the ministry's deputy secretary-general Muhammad Razman Abu Samah.

The carnival, a programme under the Melaka branch of the Cooperatives Commission of Malaysia (CCM), features 46 booths, including 38 by entrepreneurs and cooperatives and eight by the ministry's agencies.

Mohd Redzuan said his ministry is prepared to help manufacturers of Malaysian halal products penetrate international markets especially Japan at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics Games.

The NEP 2030, launched by Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad, outlines seven core thrusts, including generating new growth sectors, improving the labour market, and enhancing social wellbeing and social capital.

"We have obtained the Japanese government's agreement on the halal market to be penetrated at the Games where 40 million visitors are expected," he said, noting that 20 Malaysian entrepreneurs have registered for the mission to Japan, including four anchor entrepreneurs entrusted with marketing Malaysian halal products.

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