

Targeted measures to boost high-value Bumiputera firms

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The government will prioritise the development of Bumiputera entrepreneurs under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) through targeted interventions, Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said. NSTP/ASYRAF HAMZAH

KUALA LUMPUR: The government will prioritise the development of Bumiputera entrepreneurs under the 13th Malaysia Plan (13MP) through targeted interventions, Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir said.

He said the focus will be on 11 high-potential Bumiputera sectors and high-growth, high-value industries to shift participation towards more impactful economic activities.

Among the key interventions are strengthening equity financing institutions, providing catalytic funds, and expanding access to alternative financing through Bumiputera-mandated agencies, including the Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (Teraju).

"The government will also strengthen models and enhance the Bumiputera small and medium enterprise (SME) ecosystem to support the transition to higher value-added activities and enable more meaningful contributions to national growth," he said at the Teraju Aspirasi Outreach 2026 event today.

Akmal said the SME scaling initiative adopts a whole-of-government approach involving ministries and implementing agencies according to their respective mandates.

These include Majlis Amanah Rakyat, Teraju, Perbadanan Usahawan Nasional Bhd, SME Bank, UDA Holdings Bhd, SME Corp and Ekuiti Nasional Bhd, with strategic collaboration from government-linked companies (GLCs) and government-linked investment companies (GLICs).

They include the likes of Khazanah Nasional Bhd, the Employees Provident Fund, Kumpulan Wang Persaraan (Diperbadankan), Permodalan Nasional Bhd, Tabung Haji, Petronas and the Armed Forces Fund Board.

He said Bumiputeras totalled 21.8 million as of December 2025, representing 63.6 per cent of Malaysia's population and serving a key driver of the workforce and economic resilience.

While Bumiputera participation spans services, manufacturing, construction, modern agriculture and SMEs, Akmal said their contribution to gross domestic product remains moderate at about 8.1 per cent.

To address this, the government has intensified efforts to scale Bumiputera SMEs through initiatives such as the GEAR-uP programme, which adopts a relay-race approach combining individual enterprise growth with ecosystem support from GLCs and GLICs.

Among the outcomes cited were the listings of SumiSaujana Group Bhd and Orkim Bhd on the ACE Market and Main Market of Bursa Malaysia within a year of the launch of the Bumiputera Economic Transformation Plan 2035 (PuTERA35).

Akmal also highlighted improvements in Bumiputera household income and employment. Average monthly income rose from RM7,599 in 2022 to RM8,220 in 2024, poverty declined to 6.6 per cent, labour force participation increased to 67.4 per cent, and graduate participation reached 86 per cent.

With digitalisation and automation driving demand for high-skilled, high-value jobs, he said continuous investment in upskilling and reskilling is essential.

"Bumiputera economic empowerment must prioritise quality over quantity, with emphasis on productivity, income and control in high-value sectors to ensure sustainable advancement," he said.

Within this ecosystem, Teraju will continue to act as a catalyst to accelerate business scaling and enhance company value creation.

Akmal said the focus must be on tangible results and measurable impact, supported by efficient execution and disciplined monitoring under initiatives such as PuTERA35.

He added that success will be measured by actual achievements, not the number of programmes implemented.

He called on all parties to strengthen commitment, enhance productivity and implement necessary reforms to elevate the status of the Bumiputera community and improve Malaysians' quality of life.