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Economy Minister Akmal Nasrullah Mohd Nasir (centre) and Bumiputera Agenda Steering Unit (Teraju) chief executive officer Junady Nawawi (left) with other officials at the launch of the Teraju Aspirasi Outreach 2026 yesterday. NSTP PIC BY ASWADI ALIAS

### BUMIPUTERA ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT

## Government to focus on targeted interventions

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

He said the focus will be on 11 high-potential sectors and high-growth, high-value industries.

Among the 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 yesterday.

Akmal Nasrullah said the SME scaling initiative adopts a whole-of-government approach involving ministries and agencies.

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

They include Khazanah Nasional Bhd, the Employees Provident Fund, Retirement Fund Inc, Permodalan Nasional Bhd, Tabung Haji, Petroliam Nasional Bhd and the Armed Forces Fund Board.

Akmal Nasrullah said there were 21.8 million Bumiputera as

of December 2025, representing 63.6 per cent of the population.

However, Bumiputera 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 GEAR-uP.

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 Nasrullah 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.

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.

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

Akmal Nasrullah said the focus must be on tangible results and measurable impact.

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