

Ministries need to merge under NBOS to help SMEs

A COOPERATION to merge a few ministries needs to be created through the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS) to help entrepreneurs in the country expand their businesses at the global level.

Ministry of Rural and Regional Development (MRRD) Deputy Minister Datuk Ahmad Jazlan Yaakub said this intention could be implemented with the cooperation of MRRD, Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-based Industry (MoA) and

Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI).

"MRRD and MoA can help develop more entrepreneurs at the grassroot level while MITI through Malaysia External Trade Development Corp (Matrade) can highlight products of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) at the international stage," he said.

He said this after launching the Matrade Exporters Forum programme, which was also attended by Matrade

chairman Datuk Noraini Ahmad with about 250 entrepreneurs yesterday.

Meanwhile, Noraini said the SMEs' contribution to the country's exports at 19% this year is projected to grow to 25% by 2020.

"SMEs play an important role in contributing to the nation's exports in the future and Matrade will assist them in gaining access to the global market by providing export services facilities and market

information to Malaysian companies," she said.

She said among the new initiatives developed by Matrade are Going-Export programme involving 75 SMEs selected to penetrate the global market as well as Mid-Tier Companies Development programme involving 101 companies.

She said up to October this year, only 96 companies or 1% out of 15,882 companies from Kelantan were registered with the agency. — *Bernama*