

Bumi entrepreneurs in Bahtera list to hit 40,000

SUNGAI PETANI: The list of Bumiputera entrepreneurs registered under the Bahtera: Bumipreneurs of Tomorrow database is expected to hit 40,000 nationwide, including about 5,000 from northern states this year.

Treasury Secretary-General Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah said business deals amounting to RM10 million were also expected to be generated at the two-day programme, which began yesterday.

"The programme is aimed at providing training and guidance to those planning to start businesses, while allowing existing business operators to expand their network so that their products can be further marketed," he said after the launch of the Bahtera 2016 (Northern Edition) here yesterday.

Present were Kedah Agriculture and Agro-based Industry and Human Development, Women and Family Development Committee chairman Datuk Suraya Yaacob, National Strategy Unit director Dr Aminuddin Hassim and National Entrepreneur Development Office (Nedo) head Mohd Zahrain Mohd Nor.

Irwan said 3,500 people had registered as of yesterday morning and the number was expected to increase with participation from university students.

He urged more Bumiputera entrepreneurs to register their company under the database,

which will provide them with business opportunities.

"The database will provide them with companies offering services and products. Members can identify and compare prices," he said.

On a separate matter, Irwan said the government would allocate a substantial fund for the development of entrepreneurship under the 2017 Budget, to be announced on Oct 21.

"We see a huge potential in entrepreneurship, which allows more jobs to be created.

"We need to think outside the box on ways to develop the country and sustain economic growth," he said, adding that plans were under way to develop entrepreneurship among the Bumiputeras in small towns, including Sungai Petani.

Irwan said the 2017 Budget would give priority to those in the Bottom 40 per cent and Middle 40 per cent income groups.

"Measures will be introduced for those in the low-income groups," he said.

The northern edition of Bahtera, introduced in August last year, was initiated by Nedo under the Finance Ministry.

Irwan said the northern region's food, herbal and beauty care products had potential in the domestic and overseas markets.

Bahtera 2016 involves 38 government agencies and private companies.



**Tan Sri Dr Mohd
Irwan Serigar
Abdullah**