



RPEL PROMOTES LIFELONG LEARNING TO ENHANCE QUALITY OF LIFE

Kuching, 2 March 2018 — The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) celebrated its Recognition of Prior Experiential Learning (RPEL) Convocation today at Pullman Kuching Hotel, with 276 approved trainees in Sarawak under the RPEL programme from a total of 7,328 nationwide. These graduates comprise participants from the Federation of JPK Accredited Centres Malaysia (FeMAC) and the Armed Forces Ex-Servicemen Affairs Corporation (Perhebat).

Witnessing this momentous occasion was Minister of Human Resources Dato' Sri (Dr) Richard Riot Anak Jaem, Ministry of Human Resources Secretary General Dato' Dr Mohd Gazali Abas, Ministry of Defence Secretary General Dato' Sri Abdul Rahim Mohamad Radzi, HRDF Chief Executive Dato' CM Vignaesvaran Jeyandran, FeMAC President P.Sailanathan and Perhebat Chairman Lieutenant General Datuk Seri Abdul Aziz Ibrahim.

The RPEL initiative — which gives formal recognition and certification of technical and management skills, knowledge and experience gained from work, life or previous study — is seen as a stepping stone towards better mobility and job marketability among local workers.

Providing recipients with a diploma under the Malaysia Skills Certification banding would open doors to opportunities that may not have been available previously, including the option to pursue further studies and access to better job prospects and higher salaries. As such, the programme aims to help increase the number of skilled workers from the Bottom 40 per cent (B40) income group and improve the health of the economy by reducing the unemployment rate of the country which currently stands at 3.3 per cent (as of December 2017).

During the event, Minister of Human Resources Dato' Sri (Dr) Richard Riot Anak Jaem lauded the initiative, saying: "I cannot stress enough how important it is to invest in both education and the re-skilling, up-skilling and multi-skilling of the local talent as these are factors that are crucial to improving social mobility and the well-being of the *rakyat* as a whole."

"We must continue to harness the full potential of our existing talent pool if we want to become more resilient. A majority of our country's labour force is not equipped with qualification and skills to contribute to a knowledge-based economy yet. This is why it's important for us to promote lifelong learning in Malaysia. Learning, whether formal or informal, will lead to an upgrade of skills that will simultaneously increase our nation's productivity," he added.

"In line with the Eleventh Malaysia Plan (2016-2020), the Government focus is on strengthening lifelong learning for skills enhancement. Emphasis has been on efforts directed towards widening access to learning and raising the quality of existing programmes, with the goal of making lifelong learning a way of life for all Malaysians," said HRDF Chief Executive Dato' CM Vignaesvaran Jeyandran.

Participants from various occupational backgrounds, including ex-servicemen, will be receiving their RPEL certification this month in three convocation ceremonies in Kuching, Kota Kinabalu and Kuala Lumpur. With the aid of government funding, 7,328 participants were up-skilled this year through HRDF's collaboration with the Federation of JPK Accredited Centre Malaysia (FeMAC) and Perbadanan Hal Ehwal Bekas Angkatan Tentera (PERHEBAT). HRDF will continue to collaborate with industry players to implement more programmes, with the aim of inspiring more skilled local workers from the B40 group to continuously strive to improve their living standards, wellbeing and quality of life, as well as to stimulate the country's economy.

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About Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF)

The Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) is a dynamic organisation established in 1993, under the Ministry of Human Resources.

Governed by the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad Act 2001 (PSMB Act 2001), HRDF was given the mandate by the Malaysian Government to catalyse the development of competent local workforce that will contribute to Malaysia's vision of becoming a high-income economy.

Since its inception, HRDF has evolved from managing a sizeable fund to becoming a one-stop-centre for providing novel Human Resource Development (HRD) solutions to the critical mass of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Malaysia.

HRDF is well positioned to offer robust and prudent solutions that will help Malaysia move up in rank on the Global Competitiveness Index. By enhancing regional and global competitiveness via up-skilling, re-skilling and multi-skilling Malaysian talent, it looks to help propel the country towards becoming a high income nation..

In line with the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP), the Malaysian Government initiated several programmes that focus on accelerating human capital development through four major areas. These include:

- Improving the efficiency of the labour market to accelerate economic growth;
- Transforming technical and vocational education to meet industry demand;
- Strengthening lifelong learning for skills enhancement; and
- Improving the quality of education system for better student outcomes and institutional excellence.

For the 'Strengthening of Lifelong Learning for Skills Enhancement' programme, HRDF's latest mandate is to ensure the growth of quality local workforce through efficient, high-skilled training certification programmes and initiatives that would contribute to a 35 per cent skilled Malaysian workforce and the creation of 1.5 million jobs by Year 2020.

Additionally, HRDF continues to be steadfast in its effort towards encouraging employers covered under the PSMB Act 2001 to retrain and upgrade the skills of local employees, apprentices and trainees in keeping with the fast evolving global business landscape while meeting their individual company's aspirations.

More information is available at www.hrdf.com.my