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KUALA LUMPUR: With strong economic catalyst, stability and full economic reopening, the job market is expected to return to the pre-pandemic level soon.

Social Security Organisation (Socso) CEO Datuk Seri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed said the main attribution that led to Malaysia's strong rebound was via various government initiatives to support the economy and workforce, along with financial moratoriums and cash withdrawals.

"We are glad that the job market has shown a strong month-on-month rebound and we are positive that through various initiatives

such as MYFutureJobs by the Human Resources Ministry, more jobs will be filled, and slowly but surely we will reach the pre-pandemic level," he told Bernama.

According to the Department of Statistics Malaysia (DOSM), the number of unemployed persons in the country dropped 1.1% to 680,400 in January this year, from 687,600 in December 2021. This brought the unemployment rate down to 4.2%, the latest statistics from the DOSM showed.

Mohammed Azman said with Bank Negara Malaysia optimistic of the projected gross domestic product growth of 6% to 7.5%

in 2022, the economic sector would likely return to its pre-pandemic state and more jobs would be created to propel the economic growth.

He said Socso has been holding various job fairs around the country in line with the JaminKerja initiatives that seek to provide 600,000 job vacancies.

"While the troubled times are almost over, we at Socso have looked into our operations to ensure that social security is being strengthened from time to time to ensure that we can withstand another economic challenge in the future," he said.