

## REVITALISING ECOSYSTEM

# PM: COUNTRY NEEDS 45<sub>PC</sub> SKILLED WORKFORCE

However, only 29.6pc of nation's human capital are highly skilled workers, says Ismail Sabri

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**M**ALAYSIA needs at least 45 per cent of its workforce to be highly skilled workers if the country is to compete with leading tech nations.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said according to data from the Statistics Department, only 29.6 per cent of the country's human capital were highly skilled workers.

"It is important for us to revitalise the technological and innovation ecosystem, not just through continuous supply of talent, but to also reduce brain drain.

"To realise this, the government is committed to providing the best infrastructure to drive local innovation," he said at the launch of the Malaysian Research Accelerator for Technology and Innovation (Mranti) Park Master Plan.

Ismail Sabri said the country needed a technology park as a meeting point for stakeholders, including innovators, researchers and investors, to strengthen the science, technology and innovation (STI) ecosystem, in addition to attracting foreign and domestic direct investments to drive the economy for the people's wellbeing.

The government, he added, had approved 99 research, development, commercialisation and innovation projects and programmes worth RM5.6 billion under the 12th Malaysia Plan.

"Through the National Technology and Innovation Sandbox,

163 companies have been approved and have received funding of RM67 million, as well as regulatory, technical and expert assistance."

He said Kuala Lumpur was the best location for the technology and innovation park, after being listed as one of the 10 best innovation hubs in Asia-Pacific, based on the global Technology Industry Survey 2021 by audit firm KPMG.

"Mranti Park is the country's leading innovation hub that will focus on three developmental cores, namely innovation, environmental sustainability, and urban or local culture.

"The 0.40ha land has attracted technological companies such as Intervenn Biosciences, Dedikasi Aha Biosciences, BoomGrow, Spygene Laboratories, Vivantis Technologies and Reszon.

"This year, other international technological companies have also expressed interest to be based in this (park)," he said.

Mranti Park would be collaborating with five economic corridors, including the Northern Corridor Economic Region, East-Coast Economic Region, Sabah Development Corridor, Iskandar Malaysia and the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy.

He said these collaborations would help in promoting and adopting R&D technology output and commercialisation.

The new Mranti Park Master Plan, he added, would foster Malaysia's capabilities in Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR4.0) and also the latest technology from the Internet of Things, Internet protocol services and laboratories to contract manufacturing facilities with advanced technology.

"Mranti Park will be equipped with modern infrastructure, including high-speed broadband and 5G technology, as well as incentives and funding opportunities. It is created to attract young professionals, and to provide a stable path for high-skilled workers.

"It is expected to create more than 8,000 jobs."