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TARIKH: 20 NOVEMBER 2014 (KHAMIS)**

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21	Program rangkaian penyelidikan awam-swasta bantu tingkat produktiviti negara	Bernamea.com
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23	'Kuala Terengganu records highest rainfall'	New Straits Times
24	Angin kencang berterusan hingga esok	Harian Metro
25	Angin kencang di perairan Kelantan, Terengganu, Sabah, Sarawak, Labuan hingga jumaat	Bernamea.com

Healthy bio industry

BTP INITIATIVES: BiotechCorp may revise upwards third phase investment target to more than RM15b

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MALAYSIAN Biotechnology Corp (BiotechCorp) will revise upwards the third-phase investment target for the bio-based industry under the National Biotechnology Policy (NBP), after it exceeded the second-phase target by more than twofold to almost RM19 billion.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced that the industry had secured a total of RM18.98 billion in approved investments in the ongoing second phase from 2011 to 2015, compared with the initial target of RM9 billion.

A total of 83,400 jobs were created in the period, surpassing the 80,000 target for the whole of Phase Two, which ends next year.

Biotech Corp chief executive officer Datuk Dr Mohd Nazlee Kamal said the agency was considering raising the RM15 billion investment target for the third phase, which will commence from 2016 to 2020.

A total of 160,000 jobs are expected to be created in the third phase.

In his speech when opening the BioMalaysia and Bioeconomy Asia Pacific 2014 conference and exhibition at Universiti Malaya, here, yesterday, Najib attributed the higher investment figures to the government's Bioeconomy Transformation Programme (BTP) initiatives.

"The initiatives have borne fruit and generated benefits for the people and nation.

"BTP will make it easier for local bio-based companies to grow faster to compete in the international market, which will simultaneously create broader income opportunities



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak visiting a booth at the BioMalaysia and Bioeconomy Asia Pacific 2014 conference and exhibition in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Aizuddin Saad

while enhancing the value of our nation's human capital," he added.

Despite the robust growth, Najib said the industry lacked home-grown talent, an issue that needed to be addressed immediately in order to sustain growth amid strong competition in the region.

He noted that the shortage of talent in the industry was a real and immediate problem faced by biotech enterprises.

"Companies may resort to stop-gap measures by importing and redeploying talent as far as resources will allow. But a more permanent solution is imperative if the industry is to grow and deliver the returns that we seek.

"It is with this in mind that we are paying more attention to ensuring that our human capital acquire competencies that will give them the competitive edge, thereby helping to drive innovation and revenue growth," he said.

In the long run, Najib said the talent supply issue could only be resolved through innovative partnerships between the government and private and public institutions in developing the needed human capital resources.

He added that universities and other institutions of higher learning could be positioned to be the main providers of knowledge workers to fill the vacancies created by the bio-based industry.

→ Turn to B4

6 deals inked at bio conference

→ From B1

The bioeconomy agenda in Malaysia aims to achieve RM48 billion in gross national income, attract RM50 billion in investments and create 170,000 jobs by 2020.

To further strengthen the country's bioeconomy, the government has introduced the Bioeconomy Community Development Programme to augment the BTP.

It was formulated as an effort to transform rural communities through adoption of bio-based technologies.

Meanwhile, a total of six collaborations were announced and exchanged at the conference with value of investments totalling more than RM250 million.

They include the partnership between Malaysian Bio-XCell Sdn Bhd and Verdezyne

Inc to build the latter's first commercial-scale renewable chemicals manufacturing plant worth RM250 million.

The 20,000 sq ft facility will be located in Bio-XCell's premier biotechnology and ecosystem park in Nusajaya, Iskandar Malaysia.

The facility will leverage on Verdezyne's yeast fermentation technology along with the abundant supplies of non-food, plant-based feedstocks in Malaysia to produce a variety of commercial diacids.

"These diacids may in turn be used to produce nylon or other polymers for use in a variety of textile-based products such as aesthetic apparel, carpeting and toothbrush bristles, at lower cost than traditional, petroleum-derived nylons," said Verdezyne chief financial officer Brian Conn.

KERATAN AKHBAR
THE SUN (NEWS WITHOUT BORDERS) : MUKA SURAT 2
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KERATAN AKHBAR
UTUSAN MALAYSIA (BISNES) : MUKA SURAT 17
TARIKH : 20 NOVEMBER 2014 (KHAMIS)

Sasaran fasa ketiga dasar bioteknologi dikaji semula

KUALA LUMPUR 19 Nov. - Sasaran nilai pelaburan industri berasaskan bio untuk fasa ketiga Dasar Bioteknologi Negara, akan dikaji semula setelah prestasi yang dicapai semasa fasa kedua dari 2011 hingga 2015 jauh mengatasi sasaran awal yang diletakkan.

Sejak 2011 hingga kini, nilai pelaburan yang telah diluluskan telah mencecah RM18.98 bilion, sekali gus mengatasi RM9 bilion nilai pelaburan yang dijangka diraih sehingga 2015.

Malaysian Biotechnology Corporation (BiotechCorp) menjangkakan, nilai untuk fasa kedua itu akan lebih tinggi daripada RM18.98 bilion berdasarkan beberapa pelaburan baharu yang sedang dinilai oleh pihaknya.

Ketua Pegawai Eksekutifnya, Datuk Dr. Mohd. Nazlee Kamal berkata, untuk fasa ketiga iaitu antara

tempoh 2016 hingga 2020 pihaknya menjangka nilai pelaburan yang diluluskan boleh mencecah RM15 bilion.

Namun, disebabkan prestasi yang dicapai untuk fasa kedua juga sudah melebihi RM15 bilion, pihaknya bersedia merangka semula nilai pelaburan untuk fasa seterusnya, kata beliau.

“Sikap mesra pelabur, kestabilan politik dan fokus yang baik membuatkan industri ini berkembang baik. Selain kehadiran pelabur-pelabur asing, syarikat tempatan juga giat menceburi bidang berasaskan bio. Kesemua itu mengatasi sasaran yang dibuat,” katanya.

Beliau berkata demikian selepas majlis perasmian pembukaan Persidangan BioMalaysia dan Bioekonomi Asia Pasifik 2014, yang dirasmikan oleh Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak, di sini

hari ini.

Turut hadir Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Dr. Ewon Ebin, Pengerusi BiotechCorp, Prof. Tan Sri Dr. Zakri Abdul Hamid, Naib Canselor UM, Prof. Datuk Dr. Mohd. Amin Jalaludin dan Ketua Setiausaha Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi, Datuk Seri Dr. Noorul Ainur Mohd. Nur.

Dasar Bioteknologi Negara telah dimulakan pada 2005 merangkumi tiga fasa. Fasa ketiga yang bermula 2016 hingga 2020 dengan fokus menjadikan Malaysia sebagai pemain utama industri bioteknologi dunia.

Jelas Mohd. Nazlee, setakat ini mengikut nisbah bilangan syarikat yang melabur di dalam industri bioteknologi itu adalah 50:50, namun dari segi nilai pelaburan syarikat-syarikat asing masih menguasai sebahagian besar nilai tersebut.

Industri bioteknologi perlu strategi lebih agresif

Kuala Lumpur: Strategi perniagaan yang lebih agresif bagi memacu dan menjana pertumbuhan industri bioteknologi negara amat diperlukan menjelang 2020 berikutan senario industri berkenaan yang semakin kompleks.

Menegaskan perkara itu Perdana Menteri, Datuk Seri Najib Razak, berkata sektor bioekonomi dikenal pasti sebagai an-

tara penentu pertumbuhan ekonomi negara.

Promosi secara giat

"Kerajaan menerusi Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi meneruskan agenda pembangunan yang mempromosikan secara giat penggunaan produk berasaskan bio dan kimia boleh diperbaharui.

"Menerusi inisiatif yang di-

panggil Program Transformasi Bioekonomi, kita yakin ia akan merencanakan pertumbuhan sektor berkenaan," katanya ketika merasmikan seminar Bio-Malaysia dan Bioekonomi Asia Pasifik 2014 di sini, semalam.

Beliau berkata, nilai pelaburan dalam industri berasaskan bio sejak tahun 2011 mencatatkan peningkatan ketara kepada RM18.98 bilion berban-

ding sasaran awal RM9 bilion yang ditetapkan bagi tempoh 2011 hingga 2015.

Najib berkata, Malaysia menyasarkan untuk meraih RM48 bilion untuk Pendapatan Negara Kasar (PNK) bagi agenda bioekonomi menjelang 2020.

● RM6b pelaburan bioteknologi tahun depan - BISNES B1

KERATAN AKHBAR
HARIAN METRO (SETEMPAT): MUKA SURAT 16
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Sasar RM48b dalam sektor bioekonomi

PEREBTA mendengar ucapan Najib di Persidangan dan Pameran BioMalaysia dan Bioekonomi Asia Pasifik 2014.

Kuala Lumpur: Kerajaan menyasarkan pendapatan negara kasar (PNK) bagi sektor industri bioekonomi menjelang 2020 sebanyak RM48 bilion, sekali gus menarik pelaburan bernilai RM50 bilion serta mewujudkan 170,000 peluang pekerjaan.

Perdana Menteri Datuk Seri Najib Razak berkata, bidang bioekonomi di negara ini sudah berkembang serta menjadi antara penyumbang penting kepada pertumbuhan ekonomi di negara ini dan bidang berkenaan berpotensi untuk

terus berkembang.

"Dari 2011 sehingga kini, jumlah pelaburan hasil industri berasaskan bioekonomi mencatatkan RM18.98 bilion berbanding sasaran yang ditetapkan hanya RM9 bilion bagi tempoh 2011 hingga 2015.

"Ini adalah agenda penting dalam menjadikan ekonomi negara ini berimpak tinggi, sekali gus mencapai tahap negara maju berpendapatan tinggi sejajar dengan sasaran kerajaan," katanya ketika berucap merasmikan Persidangan dan Pameran Bio-Malaysia

dan Bioekonomi Asia Pasifik 2014, di sini, semalam.

Hadir sama Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI) Datuk Dr Ewon Ebin Naib serta Canselor Universiti Malaya Prof Datuk Dr Mohd Amin Jalaludin.

Bagi tujuan itu Najib berkata, lebih banyak strategi agresif diperlukan bagi merangsang serta mengekalkan pertumbuhan industri bioteknologi, sekali gus menjadikan sektor berkenaan antara yang terpenting menyumbangkan kepada negara.

