

**KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 25 OGOS 2015 (SELASA)**

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1.	MOSTI tubuh Makmal BITX untuk kembangkan inovasi teknologi domestik	BERNAMA
2.	Najib: Women's issues vital	New Straits Times
3.	Oct 9 decision on challenge against Lynas licence	The Star
4.	Produk biosimilar pertama Malaysia	Mingguan Malaysia



MOSTI Tubuh Makmal Bitx Untuk Kembangkan Inovasi Teknologi Domestik

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 Ogos (Bernama) -- Malaysia menubuhkan sebuah makmal inovasi dikenali sebagai Makmal Pemesatan Teknologi Data Raya IoT (Internet of Things) (BITX) bagi memudahkan pembangunan teknologi dan inovasi sebagai usaha untuk menjadikan internet sebagai sumber pertumbuhan ekonomi negara.

Ditubuhkan oleh **Kementerian Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi (MOSTI)**, makmal itu akan ditempatkan di Taman Teknologi Malaysia MIMOS Berhad (MIMOS) sebagai tumpuan bagi ekosistem IoT Malaysia yang pertama.

Menteri Sains, Teknologi dan Inovasi Datuk Madius Tangau berkata makmal itu akan berfungsi sebagai pusat rujukan teknologi dan memudahkan aktiviti-aktiviti inovasi terbuka antara industri, ahli akademik dan institusi penyelidikan kerajaan.

"Makmal itu juga membolehkan industri menampilkan idea IoT, prototaip dan bukti konsep," kata beliau semasa melancarkan Minggu MYIoT 2015 selama tiga hari dan Makmal BITX di sini Isnin.

Pelaksanaan IoT dijangka menyumbang RM9.5 bilion kepada pendapatan negara kasar (GNI) menjelang 2020, dan RM42.5 bilion menjelang 2025 dan dijangka mewujudkan lebih 14,000 peluang pekerjaan berkemahiran tinggi yang baharu.

Sementara itu, **ketua pegawai eksekutif MIMOS Datuk Abdul Wahab Abdullah** berkata makmal yang baru dilancarkan itu akan menggalakkan industri bekerjasama dalam satu titik fokus untuk memudahkan pelaksanaan idea dan pembangunan pertukaran penyelesaian inovasi.

Abdul Wahab berkata Harta Intelek yang dijana oleh MIMOS bertujuan untuk dikongsi dengan industri dan MIMOS akan menyediakan teknologi paten dan bantuan teknologi melalui kemudahan itu.

"Dalam usaha meningkatkan kelebihan perbandingan negara dan memesatkan lagi aktiviti inovasi komuniti Penyelidikan dan Pembangunan tempatan, industri harus mengeksploitasi output penyelidikan untuk memperoleh kelebihan daya saing di arena global," kata beliau.

Minggu MyIoT 2015 bermula hari ini dengan Simposium Saintifik IoT dan Meja Bulat Industri IoT sementara Forum Inovasi IoT ASEAN selama dua hari berlangsung di Hotel Istana di sini, esok dan Rabu.

MIMOS ialah pusat penyelidikan dan pembangunan kebangsaan Malaysia dalam ICT di bawah MOSTI.

Najib: Women's issues vital

POLICIES: Women Advisory and Consultative Council will spur their development

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said the government's efforts in women's development have always been consistent.

He listed some of these measures, including announcing the formation of the Women Advisory and Consultative Council (MWWP) yesterday, and the recent approval by the cabinet to have an action plan to empower single mothers.

Najib said MWWP would advise the government on improving efforts and policies on women's development.

"The input from the council will ensure women's development can be carried out in tandem with the goals set by the government and how we can improve (existing) policies."

He said this at the launch of the national Women's Day celebration themed "Celebration of Excellence" yesterday.

Present were the prime minister's wife, Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, and Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim.

Among MWWP members who received their appointment letters from Najib were Permata Foundation board director Tan Sri Dr Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin, Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd chairman Tan Sri Zarinah An-



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak presenting a Women Advisory and Consultative Council appointment letter to Senator Bathmawati Krisnan at the launch of the national Women's Day celebration in Putrajaya yesterday. With them are Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor (right) and Datuk Seri Rohani Abdul Karim (on Najib's right). Pic by Mohd Fadli Hamzah

war, film and theatre producer Puan Sri Tiara Jacqueline and Malaysian Global Innovation and Creative Centre (MaGIC) chief executive officer Cheryl Yeoh.

Najib told the 3,000 crowd that an action plan to empower single mothers in various issues, including economy, health and education, would be formulated.

He said the government was sensitive to the plight of single mothers and Malaysia had 235,240 of them, based on the 2010 population survey.

He urged the corporate sector to boost women's participation in decision making from 15 to 30 per cent as soon as possible.

Starting next year, he said, companies were required to provide an index diversity, including on women's participation in decision mak-

ing, in their annual reports.

By doing so, he added, the government would know how many women were decision makers.

On flexi-working hours, he urged ministries to adopt them because aside from the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry and two or three others, many had yet to do so.

He reiterated the importance to provide day-care centres, another factor that could entice more women to enter the workforce.

"These day-care centres can provide education for the children and, if possible, these facilities can adopt the Permata curriculum."

At the same time, he wanted to see more ministries set up day-care centres on their premises.

Other measures taken by the government to boost women's devel-

opment included having a dedicated ministry — the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry — to empower women with an allocated budget of RM2.26 billion announced under the 2015 Budget, Najib said.

He said he had announced in the 11th Malaysian Plan that efforts were being made to boost women's participation in the workforce from 54 per cent last year to 59 per cent by 2020.

"We have also appointed three women ministers and seven deputy ministers in the 2015 cabinet."

Later, at a news conference, Rohani said her ministry would set up a database on all things related to women in Malaysia.

"The database will also have information on other target groups, including children."

Oct 9 decision on challenge against Lynas licence

By **ONG HAN SEAN**

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KUANTAN: The High Court here has fixed Oct 9 to decide on a residents' challenge against the approval of the temporary operating licence (TOL) for Lynas' rare earth refinery.

Justice Mariana Yahya set the date after hearing judicial review clarifications yesterday from the applicants' lawyer Datuk Bastian Vendargon, Senior Federal Counsel Shamsul Bolhassan and Lynas lawyer Tan Sri Cecil Abraham.

Vendargon argued that former Science, Technology and Innovation

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili was biased when arbitrating disputes involving the refinery.

"The minister took his own evidence and opinions of experts in private from the Atomic Energy Licensing Board (AELB) without revealing them to the applicants or giving them an opportunity to comment or rebut the secretly obtained evidence.

"It took five months to approve the TOL with two additional conditions but, to date, we still do not know what evidence the minister looked at to arrive at that decision.

"If we want to have a semblance of fairness, there has to be transpa-

rency," Vendargon told the court.

He said the minister had also not replied to correspondence from the applicants and the next thing they heard was that the TOL had been granted.

Vendargon added that the minister and the AELB went on a media blitz by distributing pamphlets and publishing advertisements in support of the Lynas Advanced Materials Plant despite a pending appeal against the granting of the TOL.

He said these were among reasons which rendered the "ouster clauses" under Section 32 of the Atomic Energy Licensing Act ineffective to prevent an aggrieved per-

son from seeking public law remedies.

Shamsul said the applicants could not complain because the minister had explained everything in his affidavit and complied with all requirements of the law.

Abraham said public consultation had also been conducted and the applicants were represented.

He said each criticism had been dealt with by Lynas and it had also called its own experts to rebut the claims brought up by the applicants.

The judicial review was filed by Save Malaysia, Stop Lynas chairman Tan Bun Teet and two others.