

KERATAN AKHBAR-AKHBAR TEMPATAN
TARIKH: 5 MEI 2016 (KHAMIS)

Bil	Tajuk	Akhbar
1.	Tackling flaws in cybersecurity	New Straits Times
2.	Tingkat kesiapsiagaan hadapi bencana alam	Berita Harian
3.	Better weather over next few days	The Star
4.	Malaysia terajui dana modal teroka Islam	Berita Harian
5.	Unjuran ekonomi tidak disemak semula	Utusan Malaysia
6.	Malaysia takes lead with first Islamic venture capital fund	Malay Mail
7.	Irwan: No plans to revise GDP, fiscal deficit targets	The Star
8.	Spearheading world's first Islamic venture capital fund	New Straits Times
9.	Muhammad pilihan terbaik ganti Zeti: Irwan	Berita Harian
10.	'Muhammad best choice to helm Bank Negara Malaysia'	New Straits Times

NEW STRAITS TIMES

It is necessary for average Malaysians to acquire basic awareness of Internet safety

Tackling flaws in cybersecurity

THE recent arrests of 11 members of a syndicate who hacked online purchasing systems using fake credit cards, raking in RM1 million underline the pitfalls of online shopping. It has set alarm bells ringing and the public must be vigilant when purchasing products from online stores. The proliferation of online shopping sites, which allow consumers to buy without leaving the couch, has made it trendy to pick up their favourite things in this manner, and anyone with a credit card and smartphone can get in the game. However, most people are oblivious to the dangers, especially when they have made up their minds about an item they desire.

The issue, however, is about more than tracking down hackers who want to rip off consumers. The need to address Malaysia's cybersecurity flaws is equally important. Exposure to cyber threats is higher now, as almost all organisations in the private and public sectors are increasingly relying on information and communication technology to run their operations and services, according to CyberSecurity Malaysia. A recent survey showed that Malaysia (46 per cent of respondents admitted that they have been victims of scams) is the most vulnerable to Internet scams compared with India, Singapore and Thailand. Six of 10 respondents said they had lost money, and the average financial loss per person came up to RM7,050. Clearly not a good sign, as it exposes the state of Malaysia's cybersecurity. As the country's cyber physical landscape continues to grow, we all have a responsibility to make cyberspace a safe, healthy and productive environment, especially for our children and youth. Fraud, intrusions and harassment are among the incidents reported to CyberSecurity Malaysia. We must arrest these alarming trends before a data breach on the scale of the OPM (Office of Personnel Management) hack takes place. The attack on the United States federal Office of Personnel Management, for instance, in which records of 21.5 million current and former federal employees or job applicants were stolen, offers a taste of that country's vulnerabilities. The attack has been described by federal officials as among the largest breaches of government data in the history of the US. Information targeted in the breach included Social Security numbers, names, dates and places of birth, and addresses. These are serious enough reasons to tighten our cybersecurity.

Clearly, Malaysia needs to bolster its cyber defences and put in place measures to deal with known and unknown threats. Law-makers and the private sector must put cybersecurity at the top of their list of priorities. It is said that Malaysia is highly regarded in the Asia-Pacific region for its cybersecurity capabilities. That may be so, but more must be done to strengthen them. Experts suggest a comprehensive approach when seeking solutions to cyber threats, and they say a country cannot stand alone when solving the problem. Collaboration and strategic alliances play a huge role in this endeavour. Failure to keep the Internet secure means that no place is safe from hackers. Still, people may often be the weakest link in cybersecurity. That makes it necessary for the average Malaysian to acquire basic awareness of security culture, which includes restraining themselves from revealing their personal details to all and sundry.

Failure to keep the Internet secure means that no place is safe from hackers. Still, people may often be the weakest link in cybersecurity.

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (RENCANA) : MUKA SURAT 11
TARIKH : 5 MEI 2016 (KHAMIS)

Tingkat kesiapsiagaan hadapi bencana alam

Komentar



Raduan Tambi
Pegawai Perhubungan Awam
Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara

Jepun baru-baru ini digegarkan dengan gempa bumi berukuran magnitud 7.3 menyebabkan 18 orang maut di wilayah Kumamoto. Bagi rakyat Malaysia, insiden ini mengingatkan kita kepada gempa bumi magnitud 6.0 yang melanda Daerah Ranau di Sabah pada 5 Jun 2015.

Dalam kejadian itu 18 orang maut, enam adalah rakyat Malaysia, sembilan warga Singapura dan tiga orang mangsa lain dari China, Jepun dan Filipina.

Selain Ranau, daerah yang pernah ditimpa insiden ini ialah Lahad Datu. Menurut Jabatan Meteorologi Malaysia (MET Malaysia) kemungkinan berlaku gempa di Lahad Datu magnitud 6.0 berdasarkan beberapa gegaran magnitud 3.0 hingga 3.5 sepanjang Februari dan Mac 2016.

Kali terakhir Lahad Datu dilanda gempa bumi ialah pada tahun 1976 pada kekuatan magnitud 5.8, yang mana tempoh ulangan dijangka berlaku antara 20 tahun hingga 50 tahun yang kini memasuki era ke-40 kejadian itu.

Bertindak daripada peringatan dikeluarkan Met Malaysia, Agensi Pengurusan Bencana Negara (NADMA Malaysia) dengan kerjasama Pejabat Daerah Lahad Datu dan agensi kerajaan lain melaksanakan program Kesedaran Awam dan Gempa Bumi, *Tabletop Exercise* Lahad Datu 2016 pada 16 April dan 17 April lalu di Pejabat Daerah Lahad Datu.

Pengurusan bencana

Program dua hari itu mengabungkan dua elemen penting di dalam pengurusan bencana iaitu penerimaan dan persediaan. Antara objektif penganjuran program adalah untuk memperkasa tahap kesedaran orang awam jika berhadapan ancaman gempa bumi.

Melalui penganjuran program itu masyarakat setempat mempunyai pengetahuan mengenai kesiapsiagaan dalam menghadapi bencana gempa bumi. Latihan itu membolehkan mereka bersedia menjadi *first responder* untuk menghulur bantuan terutama kepada agensi penyelamat dan

bantuan.

Bagi agensi penyelamat, bantuan dan pemulihan, kesiapsiagaan memperlengkapkan diri dengan kemahiran tinggi mengenai bencana. Justeru, aktiviti *Community Based Disaster Management* (CBDM) adalah platform untuk orang awam mempelajari asas persediaan dan persiapan ketika menghadapi bencana gempa bumi. Dengan kata lain, jika berhadapan situasi sebenar mereka tidak panik dan boleh bertindak untuk membuat keputusan yang difikirkan berseesuaian.

Ketika menghadapi bencana, agensi penyelamat, bantuan dan agensi pemulihan memainkan peranan amat besar. Aktiviti *Tabletop Exercise* yang dilaksanakan bertujuan memperkukuhkan tahap komunikasi dan pelan tindakan agensi ini.

Komunikasi yang selaras akan melicinkan proses pengurusan bencana berdasarkan Arahan MIKN 20 yang menjadi SOP pengurusan bencana di Malaysia.

Koordinasi gerak kerja antara agensi juga amat penting supaya

mereka mengetahui peranan dan tanggungjawab masing-masing.

Ketika berucap, Timbalan Ketua Pengarah NADMA Malaysia (Pasca Bencana), Datuk Mohd Yusuff Wazir, menyatakan menjadi tanggungjawab NADMA Malaysia memberi kesedaran dan melatih peserta.

Mempersiapkan diri

Katanya, Malaysia kita bukan sahaja berdepan dengan bencana banjir setiap tahun tetapi perlu mempersiapkan diri dengan kemahiran yang lebih tinggi bagi menghadapi bencana lain seperti gempa bumi, tsunami, ribut taufan, kebakaran hutan, tanah runtuh dan juga kemarau.

Ketua Pengarah NADMA Malaysia, Datuk Zaitun Abdul Samad, pula berkata usaha memperkukuhkan persiapan dan kesiapsiagaan terhadap bencana bukan sahaja terhad kepada pengendalian bencana seperti banjir, tanah runtuh, kebakaran dan juga jerebu tetapi perlu diperluaskan kepada bencana yang boleh berlaku seperti gempa bumi.

Better weather over next few days

Forecast expected to be good in all states until May 10.

PETALING JAYA: Malaysians can expect better weather over the next few days.

The weather forecast until May 10 is expected to be "generally good" in most places in all states, except for rain in one or two places on the coastal area of Sarawak in the morning, said Meteorological Department director-general Datuk Che Gayah Ismail.

"For afternoons and early evenings, rain and thunderstorms in one or two places are expected in the peninsula's west coast, all areas in Sarawak, and the west coast and interior of Sabah.

"For late evenings, rain is expected in one or two places in the middle and interior of Sarawak only," she said in a statement yesterday.

The department had earlier issued an advisory on the maximum temperature recorded between May 1 and May 3.

Batu Embun, Chuping, Kuala Krai, Temerloh and Mersing were the hottest places during the three days with temperatures recorded above 37°C.

The hot weather slowly cooled down after it rained on May 3.

On May 3, 24 main meteorological stations have recorded the highest amount of rain in Alor Setar with 44.0mm, followed by Sri Aman (36.8mm), Subang (35.2mm), Labuan (32.0mm), Bayan Lepas (30.0mm), Batu Pahat (24.2mm), Keningau (21.4mm) and Mulu (20.0mm).

"Other stations recorded less than 20mm of rain. Only Kuala Krai meteorological station

For afternoons and early evenings, rain and thunderstorms expected ... in the peninsula's West Coast, all areas in S'wak and west coast and interior of Sabah.

Datuk Che Gayah Ismail

recorded a maximum temperature reading above 37°C, which was at 37.7°C.

"Other maximum temperature recorded at other stations are normal," said Che Gayah.

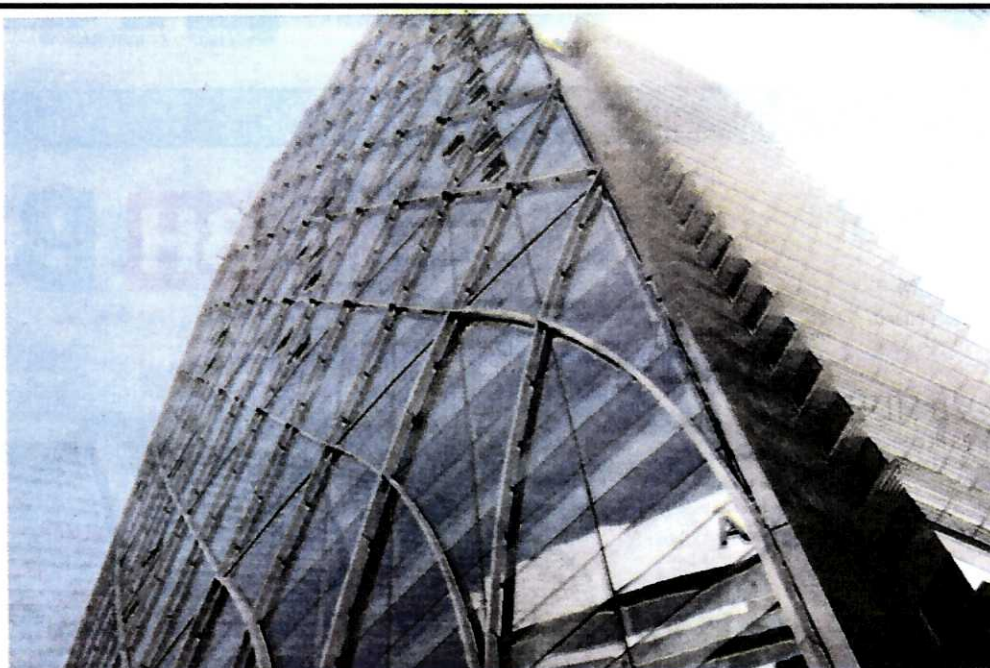
Meanwhile in Kota Baru, a local company has taken up the role as a "rainmaker" and will spend some RM300,000 to conduct cloud seeding activities to induce rain.

AF Jets Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Amrul Nizar Anuar said such operations would be borne by the company as a contribution to the Kelantan people who were now facing hardship with rivers, lakes and wells fast drying up.

"We will conduct this exercise starting this Sunday and over the next 10 days

"As a local, I am obligated to give back to the people even though my base is in Kuala Lumpur," he said.

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (BISNES) : MUKA SURAT B2
TARIKH : 5 MEI 2016 (KHAMIS)



Malaysia sedang menubuhkan dana modal teroka Islam pertama di dunia.

Malaysia terajui dana modal teroka Islam

➔ AS\$100 juta dana permulaan dengan kerjasama IDB

Oleh Mahanum Abdul Aziz
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Malaysia sedang menerajui usaha untuk menubuhkan dana modal teroka Islam pertama di dunia dengan dana permulaan kira-kira AS\$100 juta.

Penubuhan dana itu akan dilaksanakan dengan kerjasama Islamic Development Bank (IDB) yang berpangkalan di Jeddah, Arab Saudi.

Memorandum Persefahaman (MoU) bagi penubuhan dana modal teroka itu dijangka dimeterai bulan ini sempena Mesyuarat Tahunan IDB di Jakarta, Indonesia yang akan

diadakan pada 15 hingga 19 Mei ini.

Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah, berkata dana modal teroka itu bertujuan membantu syarikat permulaan baharu di Malaysia dan negara Islam lain untuk memperoleh dana bagi membiayai perniagaan mereka.

Beliau berkata, pasukan dari Kementerian Kewangan dan Malaysia Venture Capital Bhd (MAVCAP) kini berada di Jeddah untuk membincangkan persiapan akhir MoU bagi penubuhan dana itu.

"MoU ini dijangka dimeterai di Jakarta bulan ini, antara MAVCAP dan IDB," katanya pada sidang media selepas melancarkan Program Elevate yang diperkenalkan oleh Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd (MDV) di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Yang hadir sama, Pengerusi MDV, Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar dan Pengarah Urusan/Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MDV, Datuk Zubir Ansori Yahaya.

Mengenai Program Elevate, Zarinah berkata, program ber-



MAVCAP

- ➔ MAVCAP ditubuhkan pada 2001
- ➔ Program Elevate sedia peluang kepada graduan terbaik memperoleh kemudahan pembiayaan prakilulusan sehingga RM2 juta
- ➔ Untuk laksana pelan perniagaan dan mencapai objektif korporat serta matlamat perniagaan mereka
- ➔ Pemilihan 20 syarikat untuk Program Elevate dibuat pada Jun

bentuk bimbingan itu akan dijalankan selama 12 bulan.

Lengkap ekosistem pembiayaan usahawan

MDV akan memilih 20 syarikat teknologi baharu yang terbabit dalam pelbagai program pembangunan dan diuruskan oleh rakan kongsi MDV untuk sertai program bimbingan itu.

Beliau berkata, program itu bukan bertujuan untuk bersaing dengan mana-mana program seumpamanya, tetapi bagi melengkapi ekosistem pembiayaan usahawan secara keseluruhannya.

"Terdapat banyak kegagalan dalam kalangan syarikat permulaan baharu dalam perniagaan kerana kurang kemahiran membabitkan pengurusan perniagaan.

"Justeru, kami melihat adalah penting untuk mewujudkan program bimbingan ini bagi memantapkan kemahiran pengurusan perniagaan dalam kalangan syarikat permulaan baharu dan menjamin kelangsungan perniagaan mereka," katanya.

Unjuran ekonomi tidak disemak semula

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■ KUALA LUMPUR 4 MEI

KERAJAAN tidak merancang untuk menyemak semula sasaran Keluaran Dalam Negara Kasar (KDNK) dan defisit fiskal meskipun harga minyak mentah global semakin stabil pada AS\$45 (RM179.44) setong.

Berdasarkan pengubahsuaian Bajet 2016, pertumbuhan ekonomi negara diunjurkan kira-kira empat hingga 4.5 peratus berlandaskan andaian purata harga minyak mentah sebanyak AS\$30 (RM119.62) hingga AS\$35 (RM139.56) setong.

Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan, Tan Sri Dr. Mohd. Irwan Serigar Abdullah menyifatkan masih terlalu awal untuk melakukan semakan semula ketika ini.

Katanya, kerajaan tidak pasti sama ada harga minyak mentah global akan kekal stabil ataupun tidak pada masa ini.

"Kami akan memerhati pergerakan harga minyak dengan teliti dan mengekalkan sasaran pertumbuhan KDNK buat masa ini."

"Bagi defisit fiskal, dengan harga minyak yang lebih tinggi membolehkan kami menjalankan lebih banyak program dan projek pada masa akan datang," katanya selepas melancarkan program El-evate di sini hari ini.

Yang turut hadir, Pengerusi Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd. (MDV), Tan Sri Zarnah Anwar dan

Malaysia juga berminat mempelawa Dubai, satu daripada hab kewangan Islam di dunia dan Indonesia untuk menyertai Dana Teroka Islam ini."

MOHD. IRWAN SERIGAR
ABDULLAH
Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan

Pengarah Urusan yang juga Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif MDV, Datuk Md. Zubir Ansori Yahaya.

Dalam perkembangan lain, Irwan memberitahu, Malaysia akan bekerjasama dengan Bank Pembangunan Islam (IDB) untuk membentuk Dana Teroka Islam dengan dana permulaan sehingga AS\$100 juta (RM398.75 juta).

Ia akan membantu syarikat permulaan di Malaysia dan negara Islam lain untuk mendapatkan dana.

"Malaysia juga berminat mempelawa Dubai, satu daripada hab kewangan Islam di dunia dan Indonesia untuk menyertai Dana Teroka Islam ini."

"Gabungan mantap berkenaan bakal memacu momentum dan menyokong ekosistem syarikat permulaan bukan hanya di Malaysia dan rantau ini tetapi juga daripada syarikat Asia Barat," kata Irwan.

KDNK
2016
diunjur
4-4.5 peratus

Harga minyak
mentah global kini
AS\$45
(RM179.44)
setong

Pengubahsuaian Bajet
2016 berdasarkan
andaian harga minyak
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(RM139.56) setong

Masih terlalu awal
untuk menyemak
semula sasaran
ekonomi kerana
harga minyak tidak
diketahui akan kekal
stabil atau tidak

Pergerakan harga
minyak akan
terus diperhati
dan sasaran
pertumbuhan
KDNK dikekalkan





“In line with the governance changes and asset transfers, MoF Inc, hereby confirms its acceptance of the resignation of the 1MDB board of directors.”

- Minister of Finance Incorporated

P22

21

MALAY MAIL
THURSDAY
MAY 5, 2016

Malaysia takes lead with first Islamic venture capital fund

By **Fatihah Rashid**
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KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia has taken another step forward to enhance its Islamic finance leadership credentials with its intention to launch a US\$100 million (RM397 million) Islamic venture capital fund.

The fund, which will be a global initiative and the first of its kind to be Shariah compliant, will finance startups in the region as well as in Islamic countries.

To achieve this, the Ministry of Finance is in talks with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB) and the Malaysia Venture Capital Management Bhd (Mavcap) for the establishment of the fund.

Treasury secretary general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah said officials

from the ministry are at the IDB's headquarters in Jeddah to discuss the final touches on the details of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be signed soon.

He said the MoU is expected to be signed in Jakarta this month between Mavcap and the IDB.

“We are looking at an initial fund size of US\$100 million,” he told reporters after launching Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd's (MDV) Elevate programme yesterday.

Serigar said partnering with the Middle East is a good move and will enable Malaysia to invest more in Shariah-compliant companies.

“Islamic countries, aside from Malaysia and Indonesia, are a bit slow in the startup environment.

“That is why we want to promote our knowledge, especially in the Middle East,” he said.

In the near future, Irwan said the fund will also approach Dubai and Indonesia for a partnership.

He believes startups hold big potential and Malaysia should capitalise on the development of startups to remain competitive in attracting foreign direct investments.

Last year, US\$863,000 worth of deals in investments in startups was recorded.

Serigar spoke to the media at the launch of startup nurturing programme initiative, Elevate.

Under the programme, MDV, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Ministry of Finance Inc will select 20 companies to be mentored and coached from a pool of around 8,000 existing technology-based young companies in the current local entrepreneurship community.

Elevate will provide selected participants with financial assistance in the form of sub-

sidised legal or documentation fees.

In addition, Elevate will also provide a pre-approved financing facility of up to RM2 million to the top graduates of the programme.

Participants are expected to benefit from MDV's extensive resources in terms of experienced skillsets, market access and links to key industry participants and partners in the technology and financial ecosystem.

MDV chairman Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar said this funding will enable these promising technopreneurs to implement their business plans and achieve their corporate objectives and goals.

“Our unique value proposition is that we will apply our credit infrastructure to assess candidate's, identify gaps and develop measures to strengthen key areas of credit management and financial capabilities,” she said.

Irwan: No plans to revise GDP, fiscal deficit targets

KUALA LUMPUR: The Government is not planning to revise the gross domestic product (GDP) and fiscal deficit targets, although global crude oil prices have stabilised at around US\$45 per barrel and above the US\$35 mark set for the 2016 Budget, according to Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah (*pic*).

"It's still premature. We don't know whether the price will remain this stable. We are watching closely (the movement of oil prices) and will maintain the GDP growth target.

"But in terms of the fiscal deficit, we have some space, as (with) higher oil prices we can undertake more programmes and projects," he told a press conference after launching Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd's (MDV) Elevate programme here yesterday.

Meanwhile, under the 2016 recalibrated budget, the economy is projected to grow between 4.0% and 4.5% this year, based on the assumption of oil prices ranging between US\$30-US\$35 per barrel.

The Government aims to narrow its fiscal deficit to 3.1% of the GDP from 3.2% last year.

Irwan said Malaysia was spearheading the establishment of the world's first Islamic Venture Capital in collaboration with the Islamic Development Bank (IDB).

He said a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is expected to be signed in Jakarta this month between Malaysia Venture Capital Management Bhd (MAVCAP) and the IDB.

"Our team from the Finance Ministry and MAVCAP is currently at the IDB's headquarters in Jeddah, to discuss the final touches to details of the MoU.

"We are looking at an initial fund size of US\$100mil," he said.

The fund would be utilised to finance start-up companies, not only in Malaysia, but also in the region and other Islamic countries.

Irwan said Islamic countries, apart from Malaysia and Indonesia, were a bit behind in the start-up environment and the MoU is a good avenue for knowledge sharing among the concerned parties.

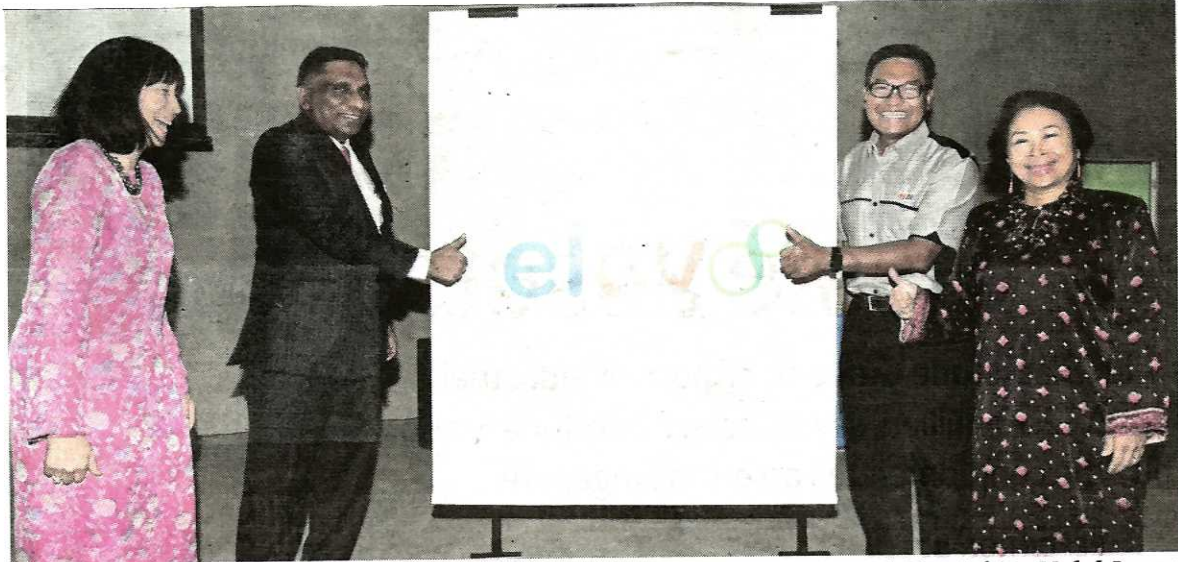


"The establishment of the Islamic Venture Capital has also the potential to raise the country's per capita income," he added.

Meanwhile, Elevate is a nurturing programme where selected participants will be groomed, coached and mentored by MDV within a 12-month time frame, with the objective of strengthening financial and project management capabilities to increase their ability to secure financing from MDV or other financial institutions.

The participants are also expected to benefit from MDV's extensive resources in terms of experience skillsets, market access, links to key industry participants and partners in the technology and financial ecosystem.

In addition, Elevate will also provide a pre-approved financial allocation of up to RM2mil to the top graduates of the programme. — Bernama



(From left) MDV chairman **Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar**, Treasury Secretary-General **Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah**, MDV managing director and CEO **Datuk Zubir Ansori Yahaya** and MDV non-executive director **Datuk Noripah Kamso** at the launch of 'Elevate' in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Pic by Surianie Mohd Hanif

Spearheading world's first Islamic venture capital fund

RUPA DAMODARAN

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will take the lead in setting up the world's first Islamic venture capital fund that will spawn the growth of start-ups, said Treasury Secretary-General Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah.

Treasury officials and the Malaysia Venture Capital Bhd are now finalising the US\$100 million (RM398 million) deal with Islamic Development Bank (IDB) in Jeddah and a memorandum of understanding is expected to be signed during the upcoming IDB's annual meeting in Jakarta later this month.

"We are looking at a small amount first, and if it is successful, we will invite other parties to join the venture fund," Irwan said after launching a 12-month nurturing programme fund called "Elevate" by **Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd**

(MDV) yesterday.

Although there is a slow growth in start-up in Islamic countries outside Malaysia and Indonesia, he was confident of a shift in the mindset as seen in growing interest in Egypt and the United Arab Emirates.

"We are also looking at partnering with Indonesia and Dubai. Partnering with the Middle East countries is a good move as we are developing our own syariah-compliant fund so we will invest in syariah-compliant companies."

Start-up investments can be a game-changer in the investing circles and attract more foreign direct investments (FDIs) to the country, he said. For instance, Malaysia attracted 96 start-up deals last year worth US\$800,000 in investments, while Singapore had 55 start-ups with US\$7.5 million investments.

"If we focus and create 200 start-ups and multiply investment, the

FDI numbers can run into billions."

Grab Taxi was one start-up established in Malaysia, but turned into a billion ringgit company subsequently.

"Start-ups provide the potential to raise the per capita income of countries as this 'new economy', which provides growth in new areas such as education, health, logistics, fintech and digital technology, can help countries to survive the FDI competition," Irwan said.

The 12-month Elevate initiative will see MDV selecting 20 companies to be mentored and coached from a pool of at least 8,000 existing technology-based young companies in the current entrepreneurship community in Malaysia.

MDV chairman Tan Sri Zarinah Anwar said Elevate will also provide a pre-approved financing facility of up to RM2 million to the top graduates of the programme.

KERATAN AKHBAR
BERITA HARIAN (BISNES) : MUKA SURAT B4
TARIKH : 5 MEI 2016 (KHAMIS)

Muhammad pilihan terbaik ganti Zeti: Irwan

[FOTO SURIANIE MOHD HANIE/BH]



Irwan (empat dari kiri) pada majlis perasmian program Elevate, di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim adalah pilihan terbaik untuk memegang jawatan Gabenor Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) yang baharu.

Ketua Setiausaha Perbendaharaan, Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah, berkata Muhammad mempunyai pengalaman dan pengetahuan luas serta sudah lama berkhidmat dengan bank pusat itu.

Muhammad juga, katanya, adalah pemimpin yang berpengetahuan luas dan sering mengemukakan idea bernas yang mampu memenuhi matlamat Bank Negara Malaysia.

"Saya sebagai ahli lembaga BNM, saya kenal rapat dengan beliau (Muhammad)," katanya ketika ditemui selepas pelancaran Program Elevate yang dianjurkan **Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd (MDV)** di Kuala Lumpur, semalam.

Utama dasar kerajaan

Beliau berkata demikian bagi mengulas mengenai perlantikan Muhammad sebagai Gabenor Bank Negara bagi menggantikan Tan Sri Dr Zeti Akhtar Aziz yang bersara pada 30 April lalu.

Mohd Irwan juga menegaskan, tanpa mengambil kira siapa yang

dilantik sebagai gabenor, dasar utama kerajaan akan diteruskan dan tidak akan ada perubahan mendadak membabitkan dasar, serta kebebasan Bank Negara Malaysia tetap dipastikan.

Diminta mengulas mengenai namanya turut dikaitkan sebagai antara calon untuk menjadi Gabenor Bank Negara sebelum ini, katanya, beliau tidak tahu bagaimana namanya dikaitkan dengan jawatan itu.

"Setiap kali wartawan bertanya soal ini, saya kata saya tidak tahu. Malah, pada pameran bergerak sukuk (baru-baru ini), pengurus dana setiap negara juga bertanya soal yang sama. Saya menjawab saya tidak tahu," katanya.

Sementara itu, mengenai perkembangan pertumbuhan ekonomi semasa negara, Mohd Irwan berkata, kerajaan tidak bercadang menyemak semula sasaran pertumbuhan ekonomi dan defisit fiskal, walaupun harga minyak mentah global kini berlegar pada paras sekitar AS\$45 satu tong, melepasi paras AS\$35 yang ditetapkan dalam Pengubahsuaian Bajet 2016.

'Muhammad best choice to helm Bank Negara Malaysia'

KUALA LUMPUR: Treasury Secretary-General Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Seri-gar Abdullah described Datuk Muhammad Ibrahim as the apt and best choice to helm Bank Negara Malaysia.

"As deputy governor and an experienced central banker he is apt for the position. And, as a board member, I have also got to know him well," he said after the launch of the nurturing programme "Elevate" by Malaysia Debt Ventures Bhd yesterday.

"He is a good man, knowledgeable, intelligent, and produces ideas during the board meetings, and is capable of leading the bank. We have a good candidate so let's work together for the nation and people," he added.

On the policies, Irwan, who also sits on the board of Bank Negara, said there will not be "any drastic changes".

The independence of Bank Negara will remain, he said.

Irwan expressed hope that the Treasury and the central bank can continue to work closely with the government to develop the economy further.

"In an informal meeting, we talked about cooperation in areas like financing in entrepreneurship through the cooperation of the Finance Ministry, Economic Planning Unit, and Bank Negara. We also talked about the public policy for

housing and health insurance."

Irwan said the government will not embark on any stimulus programme or continue with the subsidy rationalisation programme this year.

"We remain focused on implementing the recalibrated budget and continue to maintain 4-4.5 per cent growth this year," he added.

Uncertainties continue to hover in the global economy and the government is monitoring closely the unfolding events, including rising oil prices.

Irwan said the International Monetary Fund had also revised its global economic outlook recently.

"In terms of fiscal (spending) we still have some space. If oil prices were to rise further, we would still be able to have more space to do more projects, but we are not revising the growth or deficit level."

Rising oil prices have recently shown reports of United States oil producers rushing back to their operations.

Referring to the recent sukuk roadshows in Singapore, Hong Kong, United Kingdom and the US, Irwan said investors were pleased with the regulatory system in place, fiscal policies which have been undertaken, including the rationalisation of subsidies and the introduction of the Goods and Services Tax.

Rupa Damodaran

Newly-appointed
Bank Negara
Malaysia
governor
**Datuk
Muhammad
Ibrahim.** Pic by
Aizuddin Saad

