



11 OCT, 2021

31,500 to benefit from Penjana grant

The Edge, Malaysia



# Bits + Bytes

## A MISCELLANY OF TECHNOLOGY

### NEWS

#### 31,500 to benefit from Penjana grant

Some 31,500 Malaysians will benefit from the efforts of 63 social enterprises, which received a total of US\$2.39 million in funding through the government's Penjana Social Impact Matching (SIM) Grant in the past year. According to Amiruddin Abdul Shukor, acting CEO of Malaysian Global Innovation and Creativity Centre (MaGIC), the 63 social enterprise grant recipients from nine states in the country are expected to deliver an estimated social value of more than RM40 million through various initiatives.

The SIM Grant was a move by the government to rebuild the livelihoods of communities through social enterprises in five impact areas, namely, environmental protection, food security, health and social well-being, community livelihood and heritage preservation. The grants are channelled through the social enterprises to the beneficiaries for capacity building, which will provide them with additional skills to improve their job prospects, increase their income and improve their livelihoods.

More than one-third of the approved funding is directed towards initiatives aimed at community livelihood, followed by 26% for health and social well-being. Marginalised communities, youth and children form about 50% of the beneficiaries, while indigenous communities make up another 30%.

The SIM Grant Joint Approval Committee — composed of the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (Mosti), MaGIC, Yayasan Hasanah and Yayasan Inovasi Malaysia — assessed applications for feasibility, effectiveness and intended outcomes. A total of 182 applications were received.

The SIM Grant recipients include Melissa Gomes, founder of Penang-based Edvolution Enterprise, which has created a one-stop online professional development platform for teachers, educational development and schools called CikguHub. Edvolution offers 20 short courses, three online programmes and one tailor-made school solution. Its courses include Understanding Teaching as

Leadership and Understanding Students' Social Emotional Needs and Assessing My Teaching Competencies.

Meanwhile, #Demilaut, a social enterprise that provides integrated solutions for a sustainable fishing culture, has assisted two fishing villages in Bako and Sibuti, Sarawak, with 32 Pemukat Noh, a mechanised trawl engine. This reduces the need for already depleting manpower due to Covid-19 restrictions and increases the fishermen's database as well as spurs youth participation.

Some SIM Grant applicants who were unsuccessful in securing funding were directed to two other MaGIC initiatives, namely, the Social Impact Challenge Accelerator, where they pitched for projects from other organisations to receive networking and funding opportunities, and the Buy For Impact programme, where social enterprises are provided with market access, funding and capacity-building support.



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## SUMMARIES

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