

BERITA ONLINE

BERNAMA

TARIKH: 13 SEPTEMBER 2022 (SELASA)



Biotechnology community lauds DBN 2.0



Prof Datuk Dr Raha Abdul Rahim (credit: Utem.edu.my)



13/09/2022 08:53 PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 13 (Bernama) -- The country's biotechnology fraternity has lauded the government's launch of the National Biotechnology Policy 2.0 (DBN 2.0).

The National Institutes of Biotechnology Malaysia (NIBM) chief executive professor Prof Datuk Dr Raha Abdul Rahim said the focus should be given to the biotechnology industry so that Malaysia does not fall behind compared to other ASEAN countries.

"The MyGenom project which was also announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob is essential for the country to produce a reference genome for the diversity of the Malaysian population and ethnicity to drive the precision medicine initiative for Malaysians," she said in a statement today.

She said NIBM is ready to shoulder the responsibility to implement DBN 2.0 and all its primary thrusts.

In the same statement, Universiti Malaya lecturer Dr Rofina Yasmin Othman said DBN 2.0 shows the government's commitment to supporting the economic sector involving the biotechnology industry.

"There is no doubt that the entire biotechnology ecosystem is delighted with the launch of DBN 2.0. Lots to look forward to!" she said.

According to the Malaysian Bioeconomy Development Corporation chief executive officer Mohd Khairul Fidzal Abdul Razak, he believes that the policy will breathe new life into the biotechnology and bio-based industry in Malaysia.

He said he hoped to work closely with all stakeholders such as the Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI) to improve the BioNexus Bill of Guarantees and strengthen the Bio-Based Accelerator programme to form a more dynamic and thriving biotechnology ecosystem.

Meanwhile, GK Aqua Sdn Bhd chief executive officer Giva Kuppusamy said the company is taking up the challenge to achieve the policy targets, in line with the three aspects of the biotechnology industry, biotechnology talent and the importance of research.

Yesterday, Ismail Sabri launched DBN 2.0 to empower the country's biotechnology sector in line with the aspiration of making Malaysia a high-tech country by 2030.

The policy will focus on three main thrusts: agricultural biotechnology and food security; healthcare and wellbeing; and biotechnology in industrialisation and circular economy.