## BERITA ONLINE DAILY EXPRESS TARIKH: 12 DISEMBER 2022 Daily Express

## NDENT NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF EAST MA

## Helping youths gain edge in entrepreneurship

Published on: Monday, December 12, 2022

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Maria presenting a certificate to one of the trainees.

**KOTA KINABALU:** The Sabah Talent Entrepreneurship Programme (Step) is a catalyst for youth involvement in the entrepreneurship sector, according to Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry Deputy Permanent Secretary I, Maria Chong. She said through numerous skill-building programmes tailored especially for young people, the State Government, through the Ministry, always aims to create successful businesses.

"In addition to being able to provide new job prospects, youth involvement in the field of entrepreneurship has successfully boosted the economic competitiveness of the State and the country.

"The 12th Malaysia Plan's Steps skills programme aims to reach the target group of people with the talent and potential to become successful entrepreneurs," she said. "The government will continue to promote entrepreneurs and work to produce more of them in the State, especially in the socioeconomic development of families, the welfare of the people, and directly contribute to the economic stability and prosperity of the country," she added.

She said this during the Step Certificate presentation ceremony for Fibre Optic Installation and Maintenance Programme and Mobile Air Conditioning Technician here, here, Saturday.

Forty participants earned certificates after completing a three-month course that began on Sept 12.

The Best Trainee Awards for the Mobile Air Conditioning Technician and Fibre Optic Installation and Maintenance Programme went to Fazir Hassim and Mohd Syami Akmal Samreh, respectively.