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BIZGRANT SSM PROGRAMME

SSM allocates RM10m grant for entrepreneurs

ROMPIN: In a bid to encourage aspiring young entrepreneurs to start new businesses, the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM) has set aside RM10 million under the BizGrant SSM programme this year.

The programme, which has been introduced in five states — Sarawak, Sabah, Melaka, Perak and Pahang — has enabled selected entrepreneurs to receive aid in the form of business equipment worth RM3,000 to help them kick-start their businesses.

SSM's Corporate Communication and Strategy Division director Mohamad Shahren Mohamad Yusri said to date business equipment worth RM3.7 million had been distributed to 1,229 BizGrant participants from the five states.

He said the remaining amount of RM6.3 million would be distributed in stages to chosen participants in the remaining eight states during SSM's Bizfair programme that would be held in all states until next year.

"We have eight more states and our next destination is Kedah on

Dec 1. Entrepreneurs who wish to apply for the BizGrant will have to go through an interview to determine their eligibility and selected ones will receive the equipment.

"This programme has helped encourage more young people to venture into business. Through the programme, SSM provides them with a platform to venture into small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Students from higher-learning institutions have also shown an interest to be part of the programme," he said after closing the Desapreneurs @Uniten and BizGrant SSM programme at Campus Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah (KSHAS) in Bandar Muadzam Shah here yesterday.

He said BizGrant, which targeted fresh entrepreneurs, might consider providing guidance to selected entrepreneurs to help them market their products and excel further in the future.

Shahren said the Desapreneurs@KSHAS was attended by some 200 local entrepreneurs from Muadzam Shah, Felda Keratong Bandar Tun Razak and Kampung Tradisional Kota Bahagia, who started their

businesses recently.

"The residential areas were picked as most of the residents are involved in SMEs and needed guidance to market their products.

"The programme is aimed at giving exposure to local entrepreneurs about present-day business management practices so that they can cope with current business technology and go on to compete with other successful entrepreneurs in the open market.

Shakir Luqman Sapawi, 21, who

received a mini-freezer as part of the BizGrant SSM programme, said it would allow him to expand his "Nagoden" fried rice business that mainly catered for Universiti Tenaga Nasional students to enjoy a simple meal.

The second-year degree in International Business student said he started his business three months ago and the freezer would enable him to prepare and store the *nasi goreng* paste before it was distributed to customers.

Photography enthusiast Muhammad Amin Amizam, 22, who received a digital single-lens reflex camera, said the equipment would enable him to offer his services for weddings and other events.

"SSM's assistance has been a huge help for me as my old camera did not have proper lenses. The BizGrant SSM programme has been a major boost as it will encourage more young people to be involved in businesses."



SSM's Corporate Communication and Strategy Division director Mohamad Shahren Mohamad Yusri (front row, fifth from left) with entrepreneurs at the Desapreneurs@Uniten and BizGrant SSM programme at Campus Sultan Haji Ahmad Shah (KSHAS) in Bandar Muadzam Shah, Rompin, yesterday. With them is Universiti Tenaga Nasional KSHAS Deputy Vice-Chancellor Professor Dr Salina Daud (front row, sixth from left). PIC COURTESY OF SSM