



**KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN
USAHAWAN DAN KOPERASI**
Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives

PRESS RELEASE

MEDAC TO HELP MORE UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES FIND JOBS VIA PROTÉGÉ PROGRAMME

Putrajaya, 16 February 2021 – Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives, via its unit PROTÉGÉ, has been given a bigger mandate to assist in the job placement for involving 5000 unemployed graduates this year, more than 60 percent increase from 3,000 last year.

Programme participants will be placed under the PROTÉGÉ-Ready To Work (RTW) programme in government departments, agencies and government linked companies (GLCs) under a short term employment programme.

Its minister Dato Sri Dr. Haji Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar said this move is crucial to help the government in addressing issues concerning unemployment among graduates, especially in today's highly challenging post COVID-19 environment.

There are currently about 232,000 jobless graduates nationwide, and with the challenging economic environment, it will be difficult for graduates, especially those fresh out of colleges, to secure employment.

“Unemployment among graduates is something that requires intervention and assistance from the government. Through programmes such as PROTÉGÉ, we hope to give these graduates the necessary work exposure by working in these organisations.

“Hopefully by the end of their employment tenure, these graduates will acquire new skills and work experience that would significantly improve their marketability among potential employers,” he said.

Dr Wan Junaidi also pointed out skills mismatch has also been identified as among the main contributing factor for the graduates lack of marketability among potential employers, particularly those in private sectors.

Based on feedback received from members of the industry, the knowledge and skills acquired during their studies do not meet the demands and requirements of the industry, thus making it difficult to get jobs.

In addition to this, lack of proficiency in English was also identified as a reason for their lack of marketability.

“It is true, the main role of higher learning institutions is to educate the students. They focus on the theoretical aspects of that learning process but do not prepare them with skills and knowledge that would make these graduates readily employable.

“In MEDAC, we are looking into ways on how to assist the government in addressing this skills mismatch issue. We are now discussing with our agency Cooperative Institute of Malaysia (IKM) on how they can help come up with more training programmes for graduates to equip them skills required by industries,” he said.

PROTÉGÉ, short for Professional Training and Education for Growing Entrepreneurs, is a unit under MEDAC tasked to carry out programmes to help improve graduates’ marketability in the job market and cultivate entrepreneurship skills.

A rebrand of Skim Latihan 1Malaysia (SL1M), this programme involves collaborations with industry players, thus provides on the job trainings to equip graduates with skills required by industries.

MINISTRY OF ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATIVES