Utusan Sarawak

Ekonomi Sarawak terus berkembang

OTHMAN IBRAHIM

KUCHING : Sarawak dijangka mengalami pertumbuhan ekonomi yang paling ketara dan berkembang sehingga 4 peratus pada tahun 2018, kata Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan E-Perdagangan dan Menteri Kewangan II, Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh.

Katanya, jangkaan ini adalah berdasarkan kemajuan besar dalam pembangunan ekonomi disamping bertambahnya golongan Perusaha Kecil dan Sederhana (PKS) di negeri ini.

Menurutnya, sehingga awal 2017 jumlah PKS yang berdaftar di negeri ini terus meningkat iaitu 62,000 berbanding hanya 43,800 PKS pada tahun 2011.

"Ini jelas menunjukkan minat rakyat Sarawak dalam perniagaan terus meningkat. Dan saya percaya terdapat masih ramai lagi PKS yang aktif tetapi belum berdaftar di luar sana," katanya. Beliau berkata demikian pada majlis perasmian Ceramah Perdagangan Perusahaan Kecil dan Sederhana sempena Festival Perusahaan Malaysia 2018 di sini semalam.

Teks ucapan beliau dibaca oleh Menteri Muda Pembangunan Usahawan Kecil dan Sederhana dan Menteri Muda E-Dagang, Datuk Mohd Naroden Majais yang mewakili beliau.

Wong berkata, dalam era digital pada masa ini, semua PKS perlu sedar bahawa teknologi internet telah banyak mengubah cara dunia melakukan perniagaan terutama dalam pertukaran maklumat.

Sehubungan ini, katanya, pergantungan pada teknologi internet menjadi trend baru dan akan menjadi budaya kepada semua pengusaha dalam menjalankan perniagaan pada masa depan.

"Oleh itu PKS harus belajar untuk memahami teknologi terkini dan menggunakan dalam usaha membantu meningkatkan dan menaiktaraf perusahaan masing-masing.

"Langkah ini amat perlu supaya PKS yang ada sekarang akan dapat bersaing dan maju setanding dengan syarikat-syarikat besar," katanya.

Wong berkata, Sarawak di bawah kepimpinan Ketua Menteri Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Haji Abdul Rahman Zohari Tun Abang Openg telah memberikan penekanan yang besar dalam merumuskan strategi pembangunan yang akan meluaskan asas ekonomi negeri ini melalui perindustrian.

Katanya, dalam masa yang sama Sarawak akan terus menarik lebih banyak pelaburan terutama dalam industri berteknologi tinggi untuk menanam modal pelaburan di negeri ini.

Malah katanya, pengwujudan Koridor Tenaga Yang Boleh Diperbaharu (SCORE) sejak tahun 2008 adalah sebagai pemangkin dan peransang pertumbuhan pelaburan di Sarawak.

"Ini jelas tentang apa yang kita mahu untuk Sarawak dan rakyatnya. Pelan Transformasi Sosioekonomi Swak (SETP) menyediakan prinsip panduan yang komprehensif tentang bagaimana kita mahu bergerak maju menjadi negeri atau rakyat yang pendapatan tinggi dan negara maju menjelang 2030," katanya.

Turut hadir ialah Presiden TMEF Ng Eng Heng dan Naib Presiden TMEF Amy Loo.

DATUK Mohd Naroden Majais ketika mewakili Menteri Perdagangan Antarabangsa dan E-Perdagangan dan Menteri Kewangan II, Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh ke majlis Ceramah Perdagangan, Perusahaan Kecil dan Sederhana sempena Festival Perusahaan Malaysia 2018 di Kuching semalam.

DATUK Mohd Naroden Majais (kanan) menerima cenderamata daripada pihak penganjur.

New Sarawak Tribune

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SMEs contribute to 51% of state's GDP

ASSISTANT Minister of E-Commerce and Assistant Minister of Entrepreneur and Small, Medium Enterprise (SME) Development, Datuk Haji Mohd Naroden Majais officiating the opening of the the TMEF SME business talk.

BY CONNIE CHIENG

KUCHING: Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) contribute to about 51% of the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). This year, the state's economy is expected to grow by 4 percent.

Minister of International Trade and E-Commerce, Dato Sri Wong Soon Koh, stated this in his speech while officiating the TMEF SME business talk at Pullman Hotel here yesterday.

In his speech read by Assistant Minister of E-Commerce and Assistant Minister of Entrepreneur and Small, Medium Enterprise (SME) Development, Datuk Haji Mohd Naroden Majais, Wong added: "In developing countries, SMEs have contributed tremendously to their GDP's and economic growth. They also help in employment, income and purchasing power of workers, income to government through taxes and tourism among others.

"By 2011, there were about 43,800 SMEs in Sarawak registered with SME Corporation. They increased to 62,000 at the beginning of 2017.

"This clearly shows that interest among Sarawakians in businesses has increased. I believe many more have still not registered out there. But SMEs have to understand now that the advancement of technology and internet has changed the way the world doing its businesses and the way information is exchanged."

Wong said SMEs should learn to understand the latest technologies and embrace them in order to strengthen and upgrade their businesses.

"Only in this way, SMEs can be at par with the big corporations as technologies and the internet can put the smaller companies on the same playing field as the bigger corporations. No matter where you are, whether you are in the big cities or in the interior and no matter how small or how how big your investments are, technologies and internet will put you on the same playing field," he said.

On the business talk by TMEF, Wong added that the selection of Sarawak as the venue was not by chance.

ASSISTANT Minister of E-Commerce and Assistant Minister of Entrepreneur and Small, Medium Enterprise (SME) Development, Datuk Haji Mohd Naroden Majais (seated centre) with other dignitaries and participants at the TMEF SME business talk.

"The decision underscores the potential of this state to be a vibrant destination for companies to conduct business. Being the largest state, and endowed with rich natural resources, Sarawak offers multiple opportunities that have to be fully exploited and tapped by the business community."

He pointed out that Sarawak Socio Economic Transformation Plan (SETP) provided comprehensive guiding principles on how Sarawak wanted to move forward in becoming a high income and developed state by 2030.

Chief Minister, Datuk Patinggi (Dr) Abang Johari Tun Openg, Wong added, placed great emphasis on formulating development strategies that would broaden the state's economic base through industrialisation.

"The establishment of Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) back in 2008 certainly acts as a catalyst to stimulate investment-led growth in Sarawak particularly in the Central Region.

"Based on our core advantage, 10 priority industries have been identified for further development given their potentials in generating huge economic impacts to the state. They are aluminium, oil based, steel, glass, palm oil, timber based, livestock, agriculture, marine engineering and tourism Industries.

"With the identification of these priority industries, the state government through its various agencies, particularly, the Regional Corridor Development Authority (RECODA) will intensify its efforts in improving the required physical development as well as investment promotion and marketing for these industries," he added.

Wong praised the state government's effort in bringing Multinational Corporations (MNCs), Large Local companies (LLCs) and small and medium enterprises (SMEs) together for them to network and share insights and ideas towards building stronger supply chains in this region.

The presence of stronger supply chains here, he said, would in return make Sarawak a more attractive investment destination in the country.

"Rest assured that Sarawak government and agencies will work hand in hand with ministries and agencies at the federal level in realising this agenda," said Wong.