



MEDIA STATEMENT

YB TENGKU DATO' SRI ZAFRUL TENGKU ABDUL AZIZ
MINISTER OF FINANCE

33RD LAKSANA REPORT

**IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIHATIN RAKYAT
ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE (PRIHATIN),
NATIONAL ECONOMIC RECOVERY PLAN (PENJANA) &
KITA PRIHATIN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE (KITA PRIHATIN)**

16 December 2020



INTRODUCTION

1. I hope that all Malaysians are in good health. In the latest development where interstate travel is now permitted by the Government, it is hoped that everyone continue to stick to the SOP in order to curb the spread of COVID-19.
2. The **33rd LAKSANA report** will begin with the implementation status of the PENJANA and KITA PRIHATIN initiatives. Meanwhile, the implementation status of the PRIHATIN initiative can be found in Appendix 1.

PENJANA (National Economic Recovery Plan)

3. Under PENJANA, the initiatives are focused on three main objectives, namely:
 - a. Empowering the People;
 - b. Propelling Businesses; and
 - c. Stimulating the Economy.

PENJANA OBJECTIVE 1: EMPOWERING THE PEOPLE

4. **First, the Wage Subsidy Programme (PSU) (first phase).** As of 30 September 2020 (which is the closing date for PSU 1.0), some 322,177 employers and 2.64 million employees have received PSU under PRIHATIN and PENJANA. **As of 4 December 2020, a total of RM12.549 billion of wage subsidies** (an increase from RM12.524 billion last week) have been approved.

PSU 1.0

Report Date	Amount Approved* (RM billion)	Number of Workers* (million)	Number of Employers*
4 December	12.549	2.640	322,177
27 November	12.524	2.640	322,177
30 October	12.255	2.639	322,175
25 September	11.930	2.633	321,633
28 August	10.383	2.620	320,440
31 July	8.995	2.582	318,258
26 June	7.074	2.455	307,518
29 May	4.018	2.197	286,338
24 April	1.606	1.452	207,237

* Cumulative Amount

5. **Second, the Hiring Incentive Programme and Training Assistance.** As of 4 December, a total of **99,282 employees** (an increase from 90,930 last week) have managed to secure jobs through this programme. This number includes **79,428 workers under the age of 40; 12,465 individuals in the age group of 40 and 60; as well as 6,122 apprentices and 1,267 people with disabilities (PWD).** Among the main industries and sectors which hired workers include manufacturing, wholesale and retail trade, and other service-based sectors. The full list is as follows:

Date As Of	Category of People Who Get Jobs				Amount*
	< 40 years	40 – 60 years	Apprentice	PWD	
4 December	79,428	12,465	6,122	1,267	99,282
27 November	72,505	11,370	5,808	1,247	90,930
30 October	56,315	8,743	4,724	331	70,113
25 September	34,476	5,456	3,782	284	43,998
28 August	18,354	3,266	2,818	178	24,616

*Cumulative Amount

List of top 5 industries / sectors by category which hired workers

No.	< 40 tahun	40 – 60 tahun	Apprentice	PWD	Overall
1	Manufacturing	Other Service Activities	Other Service Activities	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	Manufacturing
2	Other Service Activities	Manufacturing	Manufacturing	Other Service Activities	Other Service Activities
3	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles	Manufacturing	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles and Motorcycles
4	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	Accommodation and Food Service Activities	Accommodation and Food Service Activities
5	Education	Construction	Information and Communication	Education	Construction

6. **Third, Reskilling and Upskilling Programme.** As of 4 December, a total of **126,792 individuals have been approved** (an increase from 126,367 individuals last week) to participate in the programmes provided. The list of courses that are in high demand can be found online. According to the data obtained, among the courses that are in high demand are as follows:

No.	Ministry/ Agency	Programme/ Scheme/ Initiative
1.	Human Resource Development Berhad	SME Development
		Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IREV4.0)
		Place & Train
		Gerak Insan Gemilang (GIG)
		B40 Development
2.	Ministry of Development, Entrepreneurs and Cooperatives (MEDAC)	INSKEN Business Training
		Micro Connector Programme
3.	Majlis Amanah Rakyat (MARA)	New Health Care and Safety Special Module
		Building Internal Entrepreneur Capabilities by Engaging E-Commerce Bespoke Programme (e-entrepreneur) - Training E-Commerce Platform

		Building Capabilities and Providing Jobs Through Competencies / Short Courses Programme
		Building Capabilities and Providing Jobs Through Industry Boot Camp
		Building Internal Entrepreneur Capabilities by Engaging E-Commerce Bespoke Programme (e-entrepreneur) - Bespoke
4.	East Coast Economic Region Development Council	ETEP Enhanced Train & Place (PENJANA)
5.	Northern Corridor Implementation Authority	JomNiaga@NCER
		JomKerja@NCER
6.	Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture Malaysia (MOTAC)	Community Skills Development
7.	Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE)	Gig Economy Programme
		Entrepreneurship Programme

PENJANA OBJECTIVE 2: PROPELLING BUSINESSES

7. **First, PENJANA SME Financing to continue assisting the Small Medium Enterprises (SME).** The Government has allocated RM2 billion, with priority given to SMEs which had never received any bank financing before. As of 4 December, a total of **5,397 applications** (an increase from 5,301 last week) **had been approved with a financing value of RM1.072 billion.**

Date As Of	Number of Approved Applications*	Amount Disbursed* (RM million)
4 December	5,397	1,072.6**
27 November	5,301	1,085.7
30 October	4,488	965.5
25 September	3,351	795.3
28 August	1,615	426.2

*Cumulative Amount

** The decrease compared to the previous week was because after further coordination and analysis, recurrences of applications were found

8. **Second, PENJANA Tourism Financing** with an allocation of **RM1 billion.** This initiative aims to support local micro, small and medium enterprises in the tourism sector affected by COVID-19. As of 4 December, **519 SMEs** (an increase from 506 last week) **had submitted their applications**, out of which **236 applications with a total of RM47.6 million were approved** (an increase from 229 applications amounting to RM46.2 million last week). With the reopening of

interstate borders, this financing is expected to help SMEs in need of funds in the near future.

9. **Third, PENJANA Credit Micro Financing under Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN).** As of 4 December, a total of **RM253.1 million** (an increase from RM227.5 million last week) had been channelled to benefit **7,252 Micro SMEs** (an increase from 6,492 last week) **in the retail and services sectors.**

Date	Number of Approved Applications*	Amount Disbursed* (RM million)
4 December	7,252	253.1
27 November	6,492	227.5
30 October	4,674	167.4
25 September	2,007	73.7
28 August	399	15.2

*Cumulative Amount

PENJANA OBJECTIVE 3: STIMULATING THE ECONOMY

10. **First, Support for the Agriculture and Food Industry.** This initiative was introduced to stimulate the growth of the agriculture and food sectors through **financing as well as revolving capital for farmers, ranchers and fishermen.** Out of the total **allocation of RM400 million**, **RM350 million** is allocated under the **Agrobank Micro Credit Financing.** As of 4 December, a total of **RM57 million** (an increase from RM53 million last week) had been channelled, benefitting **5,796 Agricultural Micro SMEs** (an increase from 5,534 last week).
11. **Second, service tax exemption for hotels** to support the tourism sector. As a measure to ensure that the tourism and hospitality sector can survive and recover when things normalise, the Government has agreed to extend the service tax exemption on accommodation services operated by accommodation operators between **1 September 2020 to 30 June 2021.** As of 4 December, the value of the tax exemption that had been utilised by the operators of the accommodation premises reached a value of **RM836.6 million** (unchanged). Among other initiatives to support the tourism sector include the individual income tax relief of up to RM1,000 on travel expenses as well as a full tourism tax exemption; both of which will run until 31 June 2021.
12. **Third, 100% export duty exemption to the commodity sector.** To stimulate the growth of the country's commodity sector and export value, the Government has also introduced an export duty exemption of up to 100% on palm oil-based industries. Among the benefits of this tax measure is that to facilitate

smallholders' sale of their produce to factories. As of 4 December, the value of export duty exemption successfully utilised by the national palm oil industry is **RM373 million** (an increase from RM325 million last week).

KITA PRIHATIN ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

13. **First, Bantuan Prihatin Nasional 2.0 (BPN 2.0)**, whereby the cash payment via BSN has been going on since 26 October. The process of cross-checking new applications and appeals is also underway and approved payments will be made in January 2021.
14. **Second, for the PRIHATIN Special Grant (GKP)**, the GKP 2.0 appeal period is open from 7 to 21 December 2020. Appeals can be made online at <https://gkp.hasil.gov.my>.
15. Third, **PSU 2.0 under the KITA PRIHATIN package** that has started since 1 October, as of 4 December 2020, a total of **RM239.73** million (unchanged) has been spent to assist 39,203 employers to continue operating and retain a total of 307,420 employees. As a reminder, new applications for PSU 2.0 are still open to employers until 31 December 2020.

PSU 2.0

Report Date	Amount Approved* (RM billion)	Number of Workers* (million)	Number of Employers*
4 December	239.73	307,420	39,203
27 November	239.73	307,420	39,203
20 November	164.26	273,767	34,479

*Cumulative Amount

REVIEW OF CURRENT ISSUES

A. BUDGET 2021 APPROVAL BY THE DEWAN RAKYAT

17. Alhamdulillah, our nation has made another step forward after Budget 2021 was approved at the third reading in the Dewan Rakyat on 15 December. Thank you to the Members of Parliament that have supported this Bill, and everyone who contributed to the completion of Budget 2021, such as those in the Ministry of Finance, other Ministries and Government agencies. I have also tabled this Budget in Dewan Negara this morning. InsyaAllah, all our efforts to ensure Rakyat's wellbeing, business continuity and economic resilience can be implemented come January 2021.

18. Government efforts to reduce the burden of the Rakyat are already in place, with over 270 initiatives in Budget 2021. This includes direct aid and subsidy that have been increased to RM30.8 billion, as well as the improvement of road, transport and utility infrastructure such as electricity, water and broadband for public convenience, and including the setup of mobile (moving) banks in rural areas.
19. As such, I welcome the setup of an automated teller machine (ATM) for the first time in Gedong, Simunjan in Rural Sarawak. This is after a long wait by the residents, who in the past had to travel up to 40 minutes to the nearest township for their banking matters. Thanks to Agrobank for providing the facility. It is part of the Government's commitment to address various issues through Budget 2021, to ensure Rakyat's wellbeing especially those who are still facing COVID-19 challenges.
20. The improvements of Budget 2021 initiatives will continue, depending on the abilities and capacity of the Government or its agencies. For example, this week the High Tech Facility – National Investment Aspirations (HTF-NIA) under the purview of Bank Negara Malaysia has been increased to a total of RM1 billion, or a 100% improvement from the original allocation of RM500 million announced during Budget 2021. This is to meet the needs of innovation-based SMEs that are affected by COVID-19, and to spur the nation's capacity in innovation.
21. For the almost 1.6 million registered businesses, they will surely breathe a sigh of relief with the improvements of assistance such as Wage Subsidy Programme and targeted Prihatin Special Grant (GKP), numerous tax relief measures, as well as moratorium extension and multiple funding schemes and grants to help their businesses grow and rebound.
22. The Government will continue to listen. Concurrently, the public, the private sector, the opposition and the Government themselves can continue to monitor the implementation of the initiatives in our weekly LAKSANA Reports, which include initiatives from the stimulus packages PRIHATIN, PENJANA, KITA PRIHATIN and Budget 2021 as well. The Government will continue to uphold the practice of transparency, and to focus on execution and outcome.

B. NATIONAL EMPLOYMENT COUNCIL

23. Related to the efforts in ensuring the effectiveness of the implementation of Government initiatives; last week, the **first meeting of the National Employment Council (NEC)** was held virtually, chaired by the YAB Prime Minister.

24. The NEC is the highest governing council in the country in policy formulation, implementation and monitoring of Government initiatives to manage our unemployment issue and generate jobs. The Council is comprised of relevant ministers, along with representatives of the private sector and industry to ensure that the Government's initiatives are in line with the current on-the-ground situation.
25. As stated by YAB Prime Minister, Government initiatives to generate employment through various Ministries and different agencies previously will be improved with better coordination among Ministries and agencies.
26. Enhanced efforts such as the NEC is to achieve the Government's objective of generating 500,000 jobs, including in the technical and financial areas under the JanaKerja initiatives, with an allocation of RM3.7 billion which was announced under the previous Budget 2021.
27. Among key initiatives include the Penjana Kerjaya recruitment incentive worth RM2 billion, various skills development and retraining programmes through at least six agencies, as well as 50,000 contract-employment opportunities in the public sector and through Government-linked companies or GLCs.
28. Meanwhile, the **LAKSANA agency** under the Ministry of Finance serves as the NEC secretariat which monitors the implementation of related initiatives, and other measures under Budget 2021 by Ministries and related agencies.
29. For citizens who are looking for job opportunities, they can register on the **MyFutureJobs** portal <https://www.myfuturejobs.gov.my/> which is a local on-stop center and the main reference for employment-related initiatives. Hopefully, Malaysians can improve their skills and productivity through this opportunity provided.

C. BEWARE OF SCAM ACTIVITIES

30. It was recently announced that application for the EPF Account 1 withdrawal dubbed i-Sinar is opened to contributors from 21 December. Concurrently, there are advertisements on social and online media, calling for contributors to take out their savings to be invested in schemes that reek of scam.
31. All contributors are reminded to utilise the official channels for any EPF matters, namely EPF branches and kiosks, the official site for i-Sinar which is isinar.kwsp.gov.my, as well as EPF i-Account portal and app.

32. Apart from that, online scams are also more wide-reaching due to a rise in online transactions including online payments and purchases on e-commerce platform during this COVID-19 situation. There are also news reports about scammers who obtained personal information of members of the public via discarded packaging, in order to threaten and scam those individuals for their money.
33. Members of the public are reminded to protect their personal information. Do not ever reveal information such as login username, password, bank account details and other sensitive information to unverified platforms, or to individuals without official identification. If you suspect that you have been cheated or if your personal data has been compromised, immediately report to the police and your respective bank, or to related agencies like BNM and Securities Commission for further action.

CLOSING

34. A reminder to all to adhere to the SOPs in daily lives, work and business activities. Our success in restoring the country's economy depends on our success in curbing the COVID-19 pandemic. InsyaAllah, **Stand United, We Shall Prevail.**

YB Tengku Dato' Sri Zafrul Tengku Abdul Aziz
Minister of Finance
Ministry of Finance Malaysia
16 December 2020

APPENDIX 1 – PRITHATIN ACHIEVEMENTS

OBJECTIVE 1: PROTECTING THE RAKYAT		
1.	i-Lestari Withdrawal Scheme under the Employees Provident Fund (EPF)	As of 4 December 2020, the cumulative withdrawal is RM13.37 billion (an increase from RM12.80 billion last week), involving 4.83 million recipients (an increase from 4.80 million recipients last week). Retirement planning is crucial, and the people are encouraged to utilise the free Retirement Advisory Service (RAS) provided by EPF. Information on this free service can be found at: https://www.kwsp.gov.my/ms/member/retirement-advisory-service .
2.	Frontliners Allowance	a. As of 4 December 2020, a total of RM445.19 million (an increase from RM441.78 million last week) has been channelled based on 1,305,934 claims (an increase from 1,283,189 claims last week) comprising doctors, nurses and other medical personnel who have been directly involved in the management and containment of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is no change this week compared with last week as most claims are reported on a monthly basis. b. This special allowance is also extended to members of the military, police, customs, immigration, fire brigade, members of the Malaysia Civil Defence Force as well as RELA members who are directly involved in implementing the Movement Control Order (MCO).

OBJECTIVE 2: SUPPORTING BUSINESSES																																
3.	TEKUN Micro Credit Scheme	As of 4 December 2020, payments have been made to 26,251 SMEs involving a total of RM199.54 million (no increment).																														
4.	SME Soft Loans Funds Administered by Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM)	As of 4 December 2020, the total approved applications by local banks and accepted by SMEs is RM11.17 billion (an increase from RM11.13 billion last week) which will benefit 23,759 SMEs (an increase from 23,711 SMEs last week). This amount includes the Special Relief Facility (SRF), Automation & Digitalisation Facility (ADF), All-Economic Sector Facility (AES) and Agrofood Facility (AF) funds. <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SME Soft Loans Funds</th><th>Approved and Accepted Amount* (RM billion)</th><th>Number of SMEs*</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>4 December</td><td>11.17</td><td>23,759</td></tr> <tr> <td>27 November</td><td>11.13</td><td>23,711</td></tr> <tr> <td>30 October</td><td>10.87</td><td>23,305</td></tr> <tr> <td>25 September</td><td>10.67</td><td>22,984</td></tr> <tr> <td>28 August</td><td>10.3</td><td>22,440</td></tr> <tr> <td>July</td><td>9.6</td><td>21,410</td></tr> <tr> <td>June</td><td>8.4</td><td>19,539</td></tr> <tr> <td>May</td><td>6.9</td><td>16,833</td></tr> <tr> <td>April</td><td>1.5</td><td>3,636</td></tr> </tbody> </table> <i>*Cumulative Amount</i> Although the SRF funds have been fully utilised, SMEs can still apply for available funding schemes under the BNM Funds such as ADF, AES and AF. SMEs can also acquire other funding via the imSME platform in the link https://imsme.com.my/portal/en/ that will help match the required funding by SMEs with multiple financial institutions.	SME Soft Loans Funds	Approved and Accepted Amount* (RM billion)	Number of SMEs*	4 December	11.17	23,759	27 November	11.13	23,711	30 October	10.87	23,305	25 September	10.67	22,984	28 August	10.3	22,440	July	9.6	21,410	June	8.4	19,539	May	6.9	16,833	April	1.5	3,636
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