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Klinik Pengguna (Consumers' clinic) at Wisma Bernama on Feb 22.

Developing local franchises

KUALA LUMPUR: Franchise businesses in Malaysia are still new among entrepreneurs, although the industry has been promoted and supported by the government since the early 1990s. Globally, franchises are the business of choice among entrepreneurs, as the business model develops quickly. Among popular business franchises are McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC). Fast-food companies reap bountiful profits by successfully spreading their business networks to all corners of the world. Not many Malaysian franchises have made it overseas. However, some have managed to spread their wings outside, namely Langkawii Crystaal, Marrybrown Fried Chicken, Nelson's and Sugar Bun. To date, 587 franchises are registered in Malaysia, 69% of them local franchises. The government pays special focus on the development of local franchises in the bid to help local entrepreneurs progress through the system.

Thursdays

Felda to place strong emphasis on non-farm activities

KUALA LUMPUR: Felda has reaffirmed its commitment to place strong emphasis on non-farm activities in order to reduce dependency on the plantation sector. "Realising the need to develop potential income from sectors other than plantation, we must diversify into other activities through the entrepreneur development programme," Felda chairman Tan Sri Isa Samad said at the launch of A Glorious Malaysian Galore Festival on Feb 23. Isa said to-date, Felda's range of products had reached the international market, where its food products were already marketed in UK and Singapore. He said the festival aimed to promote halal products of Felda's SMEs in potentially profitable markets locally and globally.

KLMCC's AGM to discuss issue of compensation for land

KUALA LUMPUR: The Kuala Lumpur Malay Chamber of Commerce (KLMCC) expects to address the issue of compensation for its land in Jalan Sultan, which has been gazetted for the development of the MY Rapid Transit (MRT) project, at its upcoming annual general meeting. KLMCC President Datuk Syed Amin Aljeffri said the chamber's property was the only Malay land in the area. "Our land property at Jalan Sultan has been affected due the MRT project, but we cannot argue as it has been gazetted under the Land Acquisition Act and we have to obey the rules," he told Bernama on Feb 23.

Five 1Malaysia students' shops ready for full operation

KUALA LUMPUR: Five 1Malaysia students' shops, dubbed SiswaSave, are ready for full operation at five public universities, including the one launched today at the International Islamic University of Malaysia (IIUM). Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin said apart from the one at the IIUM, the SiswaSave shops at Universiti Teknologi Mara, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka and Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia were also ready to begin operation. "Eight more of such shops will be set up soon," he said at a press conference after launching the shop and a seminar entitled Cooperatives Foster Entrepreneurial Mindset among Students at IIUM recently.

Fridays

Kaspersky Lab's new hosted security solution helps SMEs

KUALA LUMPUR: Kaspersky Lab has launched a new version of Kaspersky Hosted Security, its cloud-based security solution for web and email. The company says the new edition helps SMEs support their clients in addressing the security implications of trends such as increased use of mobile devices and social media, cloud computing and virtualisation. "This new version will ensure SMEs utilise the IT infrastructure in a cyber environment with a cost-effective solution that does not compromise on quality and protection," said Kasper-

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