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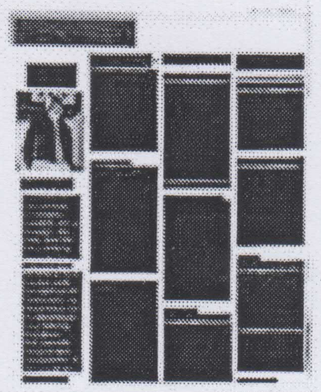

PrevSMEsly

Tuesdays

Good coordination needed in halal regulation, certification

PETALING JAYA: There is still a need for good coordination among related authorities in the country on halal regulation and certification, in order to address the growing gap between authorities and industry players in the halal industry. International Halal Integrity Alliance (IHI Aliance) chief executive officer Darhim Hashim said a proper mechanism should be in place so that these authorities could work together to address the current issues faced by halal industry players. "There is a need for a good coordination, for example, between the Ministry of Health and Jakim as well as other government agencies, so that they can keep up with the changing trend in the halal industry," he told a media briefing on Feb 21.

Wednesdays

China Centre to help SMEs trade, promote products

KUALA LUMPUR: The Asean-China SME Trade Centre in east China's Changshu city, would serve as a one-stop business and trade centre for Asean and China's SMEs to trade and promote their products, commodities and services. Low Yat Group executive director Low Gee Teong said the centre would offer consultancy services, assistance and resources to help SMEs export their products and do business in China. "It is a one-stop centre. If you have products, you can come to our centre and you can sell them to the China market," he said. He said many SMEs intended to export their products to China but did not know how to go about it. Low said the centre was more than a business premises; it was like a bridge to boost Asean-China trade ties. "With Changshu government support, it will not be difficult for SMEs to do business here as they could enjoy attractive incentives and other benefits," he said.

RM50 million for UK Dinamik programme

KUALA TERENGGANU: The government has allocated RM50 million for a programme called UK Dinamik, which will benefit over 1,000 petty traders and entrepreneurs nationwide. Mara chairman Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh said the aim was to produce credible and successful petty traders and entrepreneurs. "UK Dinamik is a government effort to increase the income of petty traders and entrepreneurs, and is one of MARA's mechanisms to create bumiputera wealth," he told reporters after opening a UK Dinamik seminar on Feb 22. Present was Terengganu Mara director Abdullah Mohamad. "We are aware and have received many complaints from petty traders who are facing problems to gain access to capital, obtain business premises and so on," Idris said. Through the UK Dinamik programme, Mara saw possible collaborations with various parties including non-governmental organisationals and traders associations, he said.

Mentor-mentee concept should be monitored

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Muslim Consumers Association (PPIM) has urged the government to monitor the mentor-mentee business concept to ensure participants were not cheated. PPIM training director Dr Izham Nayan noted the concept, such as franchising kiosks and contract-farming, could produce successful entrepreneurs if appropriately implemented. According to him, however, some irresponsible mentors had been misusing the 1Malaysia slogan to deceive potential mentees into parting with their money for a venture. In the end, the mentee loses substantially because the mentor failed to guide him, while the latter becomes richer, he said. "Only 5% of entrepreneurs in this concept have succeeded. If we can achieve 40%, that would mean more entrepreneurs being created especially bumiputeras," he told reporters after an interview with Radio Bernama 24 in the programme 93.9fm

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