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Datuk Joseph Entulu Belaun

PUTRAJAYA: Malaysia needs to put in more effort in spurring data-driven innovation in order to move towards a citizen-centric delivery system, says Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Datuk Joseph Entulu Belaun.

Citing an application from Nigeria, BudgIT, which ensures all citizens have equal access to public finance regardless of their literacy skills, he said open data had been a mechanism for improving the quality of life of citizens all over the world.

"Though estimation varies, experts agree that opening up public sector information can add about 0.4 per cent to 1.5 per cent to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)," he said at the launching of the Malaysia Open Data User Group (MODUG) Programme, here, today.

"The arrival of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, a globally accepted reality that affects every industry around the world, has brought huge opportunities through advancement in artificial intelligence (AI), Big Data analytics, Internet of Things, biotechnology and nanotechnology.

"That is why innovation is ever more important as certain professions will become obsolete in the near future," he noted.

Entulu said it was clear that the Fourth Industrial Revolution would also result in societal challenges.

"The key technological drivers for the Fourth Industrial Revolution will be pervasive digital connectivity, widespread automation and sophisticated computer software using machine learning and other artificial intelligence techniques.

"In the face of this wave, we need to be more creative and innovative in finding solutions across technology-based convention that are game changers to stimulate future development of the nation," he said.

On MODUG, Entulu said the programme, organised by the Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit (MAMPU) in collaboration with the World Bank, also emphasised the importance of harnessing open data.

The inaugural programme involved more than 110 participants from government agencies, industries, academia and non-governmental organisations, as well as citizens. – Bernama

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