

TRANSPARENT ADMINISTRATION

# PM VOWS TO EMPOWER PUBLIC SECTOR

Ensuring effective, transparent and people-friendly delivery service main agenda of the govt

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**F**IGHTING the ongoing global Covid-19 pandemic will not deter the government's continuous efforts to empower the public sector.

Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said ensuring an effective, transparent and people-friendly government delivery service was among the main agendas of the federal administration under his leadership.



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin addressing participants of the Peninsular Malaysia Amalgamated National Union of Local Authority Employees' 27th tri-annual conference in Ayer Keroh, Melaka, via a video recording yesterday. PIC BY IQMAL HAQIM ROSMAN

Efforts to ensure a transparent and effective administration, said Muhyiddin, included upholding integrity and extensively fighting corruption to ensure that

it does not erode the capabilities and capacity of the government's delivery services among local authorities.

"Local authorities are the front-

liners that are always exposed to being lured into corruption.

"Hence, efforts to eradicate it must remain a crucial agenda that needs to be extensively implemented among staff of local authorities.

"This will help create a working culture with integrity without compromising good values and ethics," said Muhyiddin in a video recording of his speech at the Peninsular Malaysia Amalgamated National Union of Local Authority Employees' 27th tri-annual conference.

He also urged local authorities and agencies to frequently go to the ground and monitor the situation apart from understanding issues among their staff, who were dealing with the public on a daily basis.

Several initiatives underlined in the 2021 Budget, said Muhyiddin, reflected the recognition and acknowledgement from the government to the contribution by the public sector towards the de-

velopment of the nation.

"Among the initiatives include the RM600 one-off special assistance to civil servants from grade 56 and below, as well as the RM300 allowance for government pensioners and non-pensionable veterans.

"In addition to the RM600 Covid-19 allowance given since March for their efforts in preventing the spread of the virus, frontliners from the Health Ministry will be given a RM500 one-off assistance.

"Other frontliners who fulfilled the criteria set by the National Disaster Management Agency will receive a RM300 allowance," he said.

On the conference, Muhyiddin said he hoped the union would continue to play its role as the "eyes and ears" within the local community and work with the Housing and Local Government Ministry and agencies under the state governments, including local authorities.

MORE ICT DEVICES

# DIGITALISING THE EDUCATION SECTOR

ICT Zone Asia wants to help cultivate critical thinking skills among students

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**T**HE education sector is in critical need of information and communications technology (ICT) solutions as most of the country's public schools are lacking information technology (IT) devices.

ICT Zone Asia Bhd chief executive officer and managing director Tommy Lim Kok Kwang said there were plenty of opportunities for the company in the ICT sector.

"We are working with our channel and strategic partners to make digital devices more affordable through our rental and leasing business model," Lim told the *New Straits Times* recently.

"In the long run, we hope that

by creating a digital environment in schools, it will not only cultivate critical thinking skills but also encourage these future leaders to innovate and further drive research and development (R&D) efforts.

"Following our listing on the LEAP (Leading Entrepreneur Accelerator Platform) Market of Bursa Malaysia on Dec 15, we now look forward to growing our business and market share," he said.

ICT Zone Asia is principally involved in the rental, leasing and trading of ICT solutions to the public and private sectors.

Lim said with the digitalisation of the economy and rapid pace of technological evolution, there were plenty of opportunities in Malaysia.

The ICT industry has grown to

RM34.7 billion last year from RM27.9 billion in 2016 at a compound annual growth rate of 7.5 per cent.

"Given the pace of change this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and how significantly market conditions have shifted, it is even more essential for ICT Zone Asia to develop and grow with the industry," he said.

Prior to its listing, the company had launched the first syariah-compliant ICT Zone Ventures Scheme under the Interest Scheme Act 2016 of Registrar of Companies Malaysia in 2011 to finance the company's rental and leasing business.

As at Jan 31 last year, the company's cumulative investments increased from RM2.2 million in the first year to RM34.1 million with 1,047 ICT interest holders.

ICT Zone Asia plans to expand its revenue stream by adding device management software and computer security software to its

range of products in the first half of next year.

Lim said the company had seen a rise in the use of digital tools to enable file sharing, virtual video and audio conferencing, as well as project management tools when the work-from-home mandate was implemented.

"Since the Movement Control Order (MCO) was first implemented in March, ICT Zone Asia has seen an about 20 to 30 per cent increase in the rental and leasing of ICT hardware and software from our customers.

"Our first e-commerce platform, [www.komputermurah.my](http://www.komputermurah.my), which was launched in February, now offers refurbished ICT hardware at an affordable price," he said.

On expanding the [komputermurah.my](http://komputermurah.my) platform, Lim said the company planned to expand its inventory, improve logistics solutions and finalise its flexi-buy policy that would carry a unique buy-and-return policy.



ICT Zone Asia Bhd chief executive officer and managing director Tommy Lim Kok Kwang says the company is trying to make digital devices more affordable.