

CARING SOCIETY ECOSYSTEM

# BUMIPUTERAS URGED TO PAY IT FORWARD

Beneficiaries of NEP must give back to society and future generation, says PM

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PRIME Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin yesterday urged members of the Bumiputera community, who have benefited from the New Economic Policy (NEP), to "pay it forward" in creating a caring Bumiputera society ecosystem.

He said this was to ensure the continuity of the Bumiputera in the long run, adding that the community must practise a spirit of togetherness for the sake of the future generation.

"I believe it is time for NEP beneficiaries to give back to society and future generations.

"For instance, the business sector is a great avenue for previous generations to help provide a foundation for those who need help through mentor or network capital," he said at the closing of the Bumiputera Economic Congress (KEB) here yesterday.

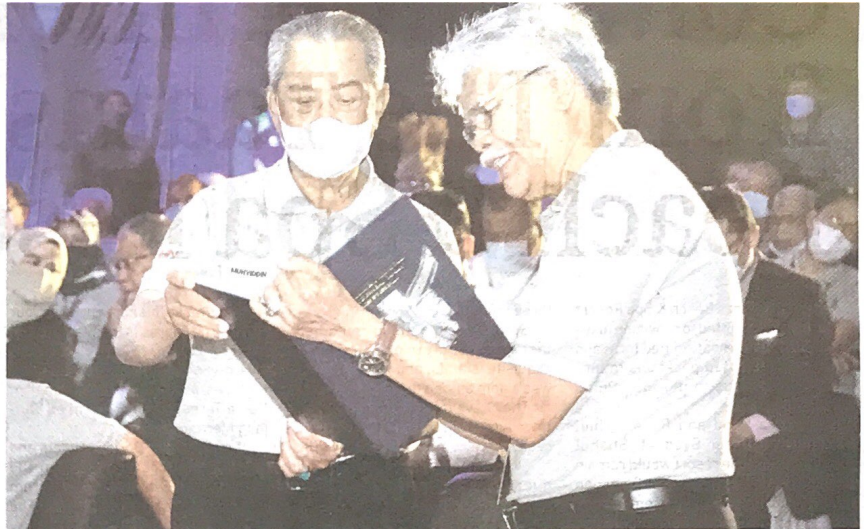
Muhyiddin said although the Bumiputera had achieved many feats, the community still had a lot to improve on, especially their economic standing.

He said the Bumiputera community was still the country's poorest, with a high absolute poverty incidence of 7.2 per cent last year compared with the Chinese (1.4 per cent) and Indians (4.8 per cent).

The income gap between the Bumiputera and the Chinese, he added, had quadrupled at RM2,802 last year from 1989.

"These two indicators show that the Bumiputera community is still behind other races despite the various efforts through the Malaysia Plans since the start of the NEP.

"Whether we want to or not, Bumiputeras must move in line with the world's economic developments, including to design and create a positive, competitive ecosystem in the era of fast-growing technology," said Muhyiddin.



Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin receiving the resolutions of the Bumiputera Economic Congress from congress chairman and Malay Consultative Council secretary-general Professor Datuk Dr Hasan Mad at Wisma MPM, Kuala Lumpur, yesterday. PIC BY AIZUDDIN SAAD

The government, he added, would continue to provide assistance and opportunities for the Bumiputera through loans from SME Bank, National Entrepreneur Group Economic Fund (Tekun Nasional), Amanah Ikhtiar Malaysia and others.

He said Majlis Amanah Raya (Mara) had spent RM28 billion since 1966 to empower Bumiputera human capital through the sponsorship of more than 1.03 million students in Mara Junior Science Colleges, technical and vocational training, education institutions, and other local and international tertiary institutions.

"The efforts to build the Bumiputera agenda is being continued under the aspirations of the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 to tackle inequality, structuring the economy, and building Malaysia

to face a more challenging era in the next 10 years."

Muhyiddin said he also welcomed efforts by the Malay Consultative Council (MPM) and other non-governmental organisations to help the Bumiputera community.

These positive efforts, he added, proved that the Bumiputera were a resilient community.

"I hope that you continue this, working together with the government to develop the Bumiputera in all social, economic and educational aspects."

Muhyiddin also said he had agreed for Bumiputera affairs to be managed by the Prime Minister's Department.

He said the government would form a joint committee with MPM, led by Minister in the Prime Minister's Department

(Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed.

"We have seen the MPM resolutions being passed, and the acceptance of the 1965-2020 Bumiputera Economic Congress (KEB).

"The government will review these documents and I give my assurance that this government will study each resolution submitted by the 2020 KEB. I have also agreed to one item in the resolution, which is to place Bumiputera affairs under the Prime Minister's Department," he said.

The 13-point resolution, among others, included implementing institutional reforms, empowering the Orang Asli, and making Mara and the Malaysian Islamic Economic Development Foundation as leading agencies for the Bumiputera community.