MYHackathon may become a recurring event, says Khairy

KUALA LUMPUR: The government is looking into making MYHackathon, a programme in which participants co-create digital solutions to help improve the delivery of key public services to the rakyat, a recurring event.

Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Khairy Jamaluddin said the programme, launched in October last year, was aimed at identifying the pain points of government services, as well as solutions from the perspective of the public.

"We had a long discussion when we started this. If there are (problems) in general, we don't know what we are looking at, where the pain points are.

"We really went down. Innovation has to solve the problem and we have to identify those problems first, where the bottlenecks are," he said at the MYHackathon 2020 Finale & Showcase streamed online yesterday.

A total of 36 digital solutions and winners were selected for the inaugural programme, where they will be polished before being included in the public service digitalisation process.

Khairy said the Covid-19 pandemic had affected various sectors and industries and this had prompted the government to take an inclusive and comprehensive approach to ensure the economic survival and wellbeing of the people.

"The ministry sees that the most relevant and effective approach to ensure this can be achieved is through the use of technology and digitalisation in the civil service. The question is, how can we gather as many thoughtful ideas as possible immediately? We need all the 'talent and brain bank' available, and no one understands the people's problems better than the people themselves."

He said through MYHackathon, the government could encourage the growth of "techpreneurs", especially among the youth, thus reducing dependence on foreign technology and foreign labour.

It is also in line with the National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation 2021-2030 and the 10-10 Malaysian Science, Technology, Innovation and Economy Framework. **Bernama**