

PANDEMIC LESSON

'DIGITAL ECONOMY NOW VITAL'

Govt's MyDigital blueprint move aims to boost Malaysians digital literacy, says Mustapa

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COVID-19 has taught many that the digital economy is the way forward for humankind and Malaysia wants its people to be able to catch up with the fast-moving world, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department (Economy) Datuk Seri Mustapa Mohamed said.

This was why the government decided to introduce the Malaysia Digital Economy Blueprint (MyDigital) with the aim to become a high-value-added economy and a net exporter of homegrown technologies and digital solutions, he said.

Aside from the 500,000 jobs and the 22.6 per cent contribution to the country's gross domestic product by 2025 as announced by Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin previously, Mustapa said the blueprint was expected to boost digital literacy among Malaysians by 100 per cent.

"We are expecting a change in the digital economy landscape through the increase of digital lit-

eracy, creation of new and high-income jobs, easier and more organised banking and financial management, better access to virtual education for our children as well as better medical service in rural areas.

"For example, to start a business these days, it is no longer necessary to rent a store as you can do business digitally or operate an online store through Facebook, Instagram or

WhatsApp by promoting your products on these platforms.

"The entire supply chain can be moved or mobilised digitally. This blueprint is for the people and everything that is outlined in this document is people-centric. It will benefit everyone."

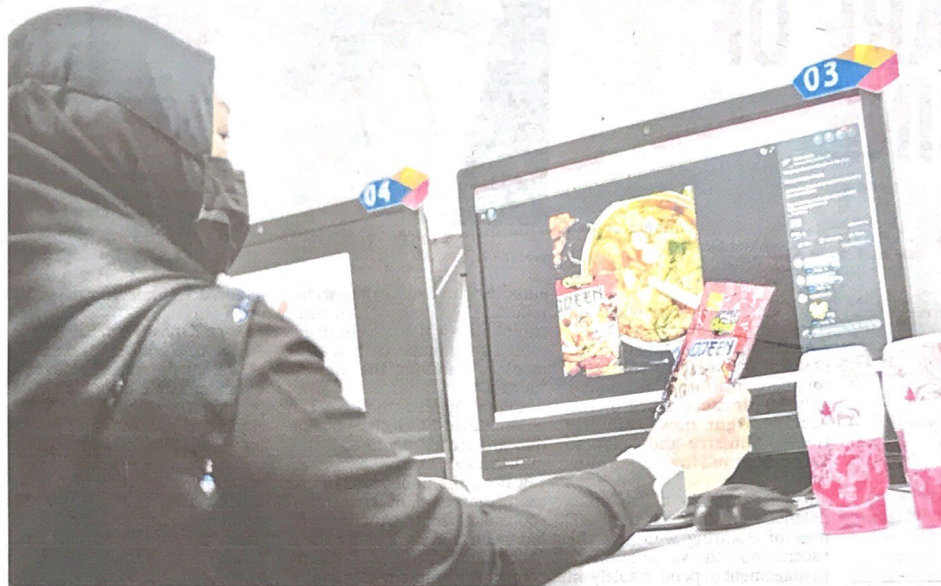
On Monday, Muhyiddin said mastery of digital technology was essential to boost the economy while emphasising its signifi-

cance in driving new engines of economic growth.

About RM21 billion would be invested through the National Digital Network (Jendela) over the next five years, while RM1.65 billion would be invested by telecommunications companies to strengthen connectivity to the international submarine cable network until 2023. Around RM15 billion would be invested to roll out 5G nationwide over a period

of 10 years; and between RM12 billion and RM15 billion would be invested by cloud service provider companies over the next five years.

The MyDigital initiative sets out various measures and targets that will be implemented in three phases until 2030. The initiative will complement national development policies such as the 12th Malaysia Plan and the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030.



Entrepreneur Norzira Jusoh using social media to promote her food products in Kuala Lumpur recently. Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin says mastery of digital technology is essential to boost the economy, emphasising its significance in driving new engines of economic growth.

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