

**MAKLUMBALAS DARIPADA BAHAGIAN PERANCANGAN, PENYELIDIKAN DAN
PENYELARASAN DASAR,
SEKTOR PENGAJIAN TINGGI
BERKAITAN LAPORAN DI AKBAR THE SUN BERTARIKH
17 JULY 2014 DENGAN TAJUK “PhD TARGETS WORRYING”**

Malaysia is moving towards becoming a high income nation through innovation-led and knowledge-driven economy by the year 2020. This direction is supported by the New Economic Model (NEM), the 10TH Malaysian Plan (RMKe-10), the Government Transformation Plan (GTP) and the Economic Transformation Plan (ETP). With these transformations, GDP is expected to grow by at least 5%-6% yearly. This competitiveness scenario is critically dependent on the nation's ability to develop human capital and to harness their talent. In this context, programmes to promote the acquisition of highest academic qualifications must be intensified. The desired human capital that is produced will be highly committed and self-motivated towards the highest level of achievement and is able to contribute significantly to the nation and the world.

In an attempt to increase the national competency and capacity for higher level research and innovation, the National Higher Education Strategic Plan (NHESP) has initiated a High Impact Agenda; namely, MyBrain15. This program has been developed for the purpose of enhancing research, development and innovation by increasing the number of highly knowledgeable human capitals with world class researchers and doctorate holders within 15 years. Under this program the Government wishes to create a pool of brilliant human resources among Malaysian and targets 60,000 PhD holders as output by 2023. MyBrain15 will embark on coordinated efforts in human capital development with a common goal of enhancing national competitiveness, innovation system and wealth creation

MyBrain15 provides scholarship and allowances for postgraduate studies. Under the 10th Malaysia Plan (2011-2015) the government has allocated RM2.58billion for funding the scholarship exclusively for MyBrain15 and *IPTA Academic training scheme (SLAI)*. While *SLAI* is intended for Malaysian Public Higher Educational Institutions' (PHEI) academicians to pursue their post-graduate studies locally or abroad, MyBrain15 is offering programs namely MyPhD, MyPhD Industry and MyMaster which is open to these 5 groups of Malaysian;

- i. Unemployed graduates without fixed income;
- ii. Employees of the private sectors;
- iii. Employees of the private higher educational institution;
- iv. Non-permanent/temporary government staff; and
- v. Government pensioners.

There is certainly a need to have such a quantity of PhD's holders among Malaysian as both public (IPTA) and private (IPTS) universities aim to have higher percentage of academic staff having the highest qualification. This is to ensure both IPTA and IPTS can play their roles effectively as knowledge-centre as well as centre of excellence in fundamental and applied research activities. Malaysia plans to produce 60,000 doctorates among citizens and residents of Malaysia particularly in science and technology and other niche areas of the services industries and will reduce the country's dependency on foreign expertise. In addition, one of the main objectives in implementing MyBrain15 is to increase the national competency and capacity for higher level research and innovation. Therefore, this program is designed to ensure the nation human capital needs is at the highest level for doctoral level and active workforce in the public and private sectors are met. Nevertheless, MOE will not compromise on the quality aspect of the doctorates programme offered by the universities in the country.

In ensuring Research and Development (R&D) activities at universities can benefit the locals, the Government has introduced Knowledge Transfer Programme (KTP). KTP facilitates a broad range of activities to support mutually beneficial collaborations between universities, industries and communities (government agencies/NGOs/public sectors). It provides the platform for the exchange of tangible and intangible intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills between academia, industry and the community. The forms of interactions include, consultancy, education, training, graduate development, conferences, sharing of physical facilities and skills, and student placements.

For the next 5 years, Malaysia will be focusing more on harnessing its talents. Malaysian talent represents the key to transforming the nation into a high-income economy, driven by knowledge-intensive and innovation-led activities. Through harnessing the collective might of Malaysians, it can fulfill its potential and join the ranks of the leading nations in the world.

**Bahagian Perancangan, Penyelidikan dan Penyelarasan Dasar,
Sektor Pengajian Tinggi
Kementerian Pendidikan Malaysia
18 Julai 2014**