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LEARNING BEYOND BORDERS: NTW 2025 LEARNING TOUR BRINGS FREE SKILLS TRAINING TO THE NORTHERN REGION

BAYAN LEPAS, 19 June 2025 – The National Training Week (NTW) 2025 Learning Tour continued its momentum today in Penang, delivering a dynamic day of free, impactful skills training to local communities.

The Northern Region edition of the NTW 2025 Learning Tour, organised by the Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) in collaboration with the Penang Infrastructure Corporation Sdn Bhd (PIC) was jointly officiated by the Minister of Human Resources, YB Steven Sim Chee Keong and Deputy Chief Minister 2 of Pulau Pinang, YB Jagdeep Singh Deo at Hotel Raia, Bayan Lepas, Pulau Pinang.

The one-day programme brought together over 600 participants from various segments of the community, including school students, civil servants, B40 community members, persons with disabilities (PWDs), cooperatives, and senior citizens, with the aim of empowering them with practical skills aligned with future workforce demands.

The Northern Region Learning Tour featured a diverse range of training programmes such as Robotic Coding, AI Fundamentals, Cybersecurity, Emergency First Aid (AED), Mental Health Awareness, Cooperative Law for entrepreneurs and creative skills training for PWDs, such as Pottery and Makeup Workshops.

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This initiative also supports the strategic goals of the Penang2030 Action Plan by nurturing a skilled, inclusive, and future-ready workforce. The partnership with PIC highlights NTW's commitment to fostering public-private collaboration in advancing local human capital development.

YAB Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar bin Ibrahim officiated the opening of NTW 2025 on 14 June 2025 at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium, Kuala Lumpur. The programme has achieved remarkable progress, recording more than 3.2 million enrolments, exceeding its initial target of 1 million enrolments.

More than 71,000 courses have been offered so far under the theme of 'Learning Beyond Borders'. Meanwhile, the Northern Region alone has recorded over 167,000 enrolments with almost 800 courses across Pulau Pinang, Kedah, and Perlis.

The NTW 2025 will conclude on 21 June 2025, with the closing ceremony in Ipoh, Perak. However, courses will remain available online throughout the year, allowing Malaysians to continue learning at their own pace via the NTW portal.

NTW 2025 is Malaysia's flagship skills initiative under the ASEAN Year of Skills 2025, reinforcing regional collaboration in lifelong learning and skills development.

In ensuring that skills development efforts have a broader and more meaningful impact, Minister of Human Resources YB Steven Sim also announced two new initiatives to the media after the event.

The first is the implementation of the Skills Development Matching Grant, a strategic collaboration with the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) under the Advanced Technology Meister Programme (ATMP), which will support local industries in enhancing workforce capabilities in advanced technology fields. Through this initiative, employers can develop customised training programmes in partnership with learning institutions of their choice, with funding support from HRD Corp via levy funds and NCIA.

The second initiative is the Focused Impact Training Initiative (FITI), dedicated to the fishing communities in the Southern Penang region. The programme will provide skills training in various areas, including Helmsman Certification, Site Safety Supervisor, Computer Applications and Security Officer, to more than 400 participants.

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"The objective of this programme is to ensure that the fishing communities are not left behind from the economic progress driven by the Silicon Island development project. Through this initiative, we aim to help the community access higher-impact employment opportunities, improve incomes, and enhance their overall socio-economic well-being," said YB Steven Sim.

The event was also attended by the Chief Strategy Officer (Covering Chief Executive) of HRD Corp, Dr. Rony Ambrose Gobilee; the Chief Programme Officer of HRD Corp also the Chairman of National Training Week (NTW), Mr. Soffian Mohammed Amin; and the Chief Executive Officer of Penang Infrastructure Corporation Sdn Bhd (PIC), Dato' Seri Hj. Farizan Darus

For more information about NTW 2025 and to access free training courses, visit www.nationaltrainingweek.gov.my.

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About HRD Corp

Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp), formerly known as the Human Resources Development Council (MPSM), was established in 1993. It was later incorporated as Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad (PSMB) through the enactment of the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad Act 2001.

As an agency under the Ministry of Human Resources (KESUMA), HRD Corp is responsible for collecting levies from key industries and disbursing training grants through its internal mechanism which is the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) or Kumpulan Wang Pembangunan Sumber Manusia (KWPSM).

The rebranding of HRD Corp in 2021 reflects the organisation's renewed responsibilities, direction and mission. This includes expanding upskilling and reskilling efforts by employers to help employees achieve more sustainable productivity.

This transformation not only benefits all Malaysians but also empowers underserved communities through more inclusive income-generating opportunities.

It is aligned with HRD Corp's long-term ambition to drive the nation's aspiration of developing a highly skilled workforce.

For more information, visit the HRD Corp website at www.hrdcorp.gov.my