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PANGKOR

WITH the recent announcement of Pulau Pangkor as a tax-free island, the popular tourist destination in the state of Perak is poised to receive an influx of local and foreign tourists.

"While Pulau Pangkor transforms with the inevitable growth and expansions, the development strategy for the island will accord greater emphasis on pursuing green growth initiatives for sustainability," said Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir at the 'Pangkor: Melestari Pengangkutan Hijau' programme.

Pulau Pangkor's foray into sustainable development is renewed and revitalised by aligning its green growth journey with national strategies.

With the recently unveiled Green Technology Master Plan Malaysia 2017-2030, the Malaysian government has clearly outlined actionable strategic directions to support the National Green Technology Policy.

This Master Plan which augments the Nasional Transformation 2050 (TN50) initiative, strives for outcome-approaches that result in high socioeconomic and environmental impact.

Hence, the Green Technology Master Plan leverages upon collaboration across various sectors to optimise potential benefits.

Accordingly, the Northern Corridor Implementation Authority (NCIA) is spearheading efforts to develop and empower tourism businesses based on green technology resources in Pulau Pangkor.

As a significant move, NCIA col-

laborated with local electric motor manufacturer, Roda Prestasi Sdn Bhd

(RPSB), to allocate 50 units of BOS 2000 model Electric Two Wheelers (E2W), via the 'Dana Pembangunan Usahawan Bumiputera' (DPUB) at the 'Pangkor: Melestari Pengangkutan Hijau' programme.

The programme is aimed at helping the growth of the green technology industry and in increasing its contribution to the economy of Pulau Pangkor as well as the state of Perak.

This effort is also to ensure Pulau Pangkor remains relevant as a popular tourist destination which focuses on sustainable development and conservation of the environment for future generations.

For Phase One, 20 E2W units were awarded to 10 tourism business entrepreneurs in Pulau Pangkor.

The entrepreneurs were tourism entrepreneurs from the hospitality sector and the vehicle rental sector.

Phase Two will see the provision of 30 E2W units which will be implemented after the E2W research study on the success of the Phase One project.

The initiative led by NCIA is also in line with the government's efforts towards the agenda of empowering the bumiputera economy.

Also present at the programme were NCIA chief executive, Datuk Redza Rafiq; Megat Mohd Yatim Megat Hamid, Senior Director of Business/Entrepreneur Development of TERAJU; and Catherine Ridu, CEO of the Sustainable Energy Development Authority (SEDA).

The 'Pangkor: Melestari Pengangkutan Hijau' programme also featured the people-centric project,

MySuria, an initiative aimed at making the renewable energy agenda inclusive by ensuring members of the B40 community are able to participate in

this endeavour.

Twelve applicants who successfully participated in the MySuria Programme were given certificates of approval.

In the case of MySuria, participants will stand to gain an increase of RM250 per month in average income over a period of 10 years through the sale of electricity generated from the solar roof and sold directly to Tenaga Nasional Berhad (TNB). With the provision of the environmentally friendly E2W and the rollout of the MySuria initiative, NCIA is pioneering Pulau Pangkor's green agenda of transforming the island into a smart and sustainable destination.

The event also saw 19 taxi drivers who had successfully completed the Tourist Taxi Entrepreneurship Up-Skilling Programme being awarded the National Competency Standards (NCS) for Tourist Taxi Entrepreneurship by the Department of Skills Development.

This programme aspires to improve the development of community-based tourism in Pangkor, whereby selected taxi drivers underwent training to improve and up-skill themselves.

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Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir (second from left) giving a replica of an electric motorcycle key to Palma Beach Resort manager Sharizal Aznam Ahmad. Also present is Northern Corridor Implementation Authority chief executive Datuk Redza Rafiq (left) and TERAJU Senior Director Megat Mohd Yatim Megat Hamid (third, left).



Perak Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abd Kadir (second from right) and Northern Corridor Implementation Authority chief executive Datuk Redza Rafiq (right) trying the electric motorcycles at Arena Pangkor during the launch of the 'Pangkor: Melestari Pengangkutan Hijau' programme.