

Message from YAB Deputy Prime Minister

EMPOWERING MSMEs: THE BACKBONE OF MALAYSIA'S ECONOMY

Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) are not merely the heartbeat of Malaysia's economy, they are the driving force behind the nation's competitiveness, innovation and resilience in facing global challenges.

Despite an increasingly competitive and demanding landscape, MSMEs continue to demonstrate remarkable strength by recording solid growth of **5.0%** and contributing **RM613.1 billion** to Malaysia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2023. This growth not only surpasses the overall GDP growth rate of **3.6%** but also significantly outpaces the non-MSME sector, which recorded only **2.7%** growth. More impressively, this sector generated **RM152.2 billion in exports** and created **job opportunities to 7.86 million workers**, reaffirming that MSMEs are indeed the backbone of Malaysia's economic stability and prosperity.

However, this success must not end here. We must continue to pursue our **greater ambition in positioning Malaysia as a leading economic powerhouse in Asia**, as envisioned in the **MADANI Economic Framework**. The Government remains steadfast in strengthening the MSME sector through **targeted and strategic approaches**, particularly in high-impact industries. In 2024, **325 MSME development programmes** have been formulated, with a total allocation of **RM33.8 billion** to propel **more than 570,000 MSMEs** towards greater competitiveness and sustainability.

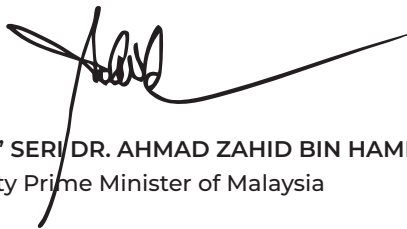
As the **Permanent Secretariat of the National Entrepreneur and MSME Development Council (SEC-NESDC)**, **SME Corp. Malaysia** remains committed to strengthening the MSME ecosystem. The publication of the **MSME Insights 2023/24** stands as concrete evidence of the Government's dedication to ensuring that strategic information, policies and best practices for MSMEs serve as effective reference points for the industry. InshaAllah, this initiative will further solidify the business ecosystem and restructure the composition of MSMEs, targeting an increase in **medium-sized enterprises from 1.8% in 2023 to 5.0% by 2027**.



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“We do not aim for survival but we aim for dominance”. Therefore, every entrepreneur, every business and every industry player must stand together to build a stronger and more sustainable MSME ecosystem. We do not want MSMEs to merely survive—we want to see them thrive, expand into international markets and emerge as formidable economic forces.



DATU' SERI DR. AHMAD ZAHID BIN HAMIDI
Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia

