



EMPOWERING YOUTHS FOR THE FUTURE

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I. INTRODUCTION

14.01 During the Eighth Plan period, youth development programmes aimed at equipping youths with the necessary knowledge and skills were implemented to enable them to meet the challenges of economic development and globalisation. Focus was also given to inculcate positive values and good ethics as well as instil a sense of patriotism among youths.

14.02 During the Ninth Plan period, the thrust of youth development will emphasise on empowering youths to enhance their role in society, fostering national unity and nation building. In this regard, extensive programmes will be implemented to develop youths with good leadership qualities as well as equipping them with entrepreneurial skills and knowledge. Emphasis will also be given to the development of wholesome individuals with spiritual and high moral values that can become towering personalities.

II. PROGRESS, 2001-2005

14.03 Youth development programmes undertaken during the Eighth Plan period were aimed at increasing the role and participation of youths in national development. These programmes included education and skills training while inculcating discipline and self-reliance, promoting greater sense of cooperation with the community as well as developing leadership qualities among youths.

Youth Population and Employment

14.04 The youth population, comprising those in the 15-39 age-group, constituted 41.5 per cent of the total population in 2005. During the Plan period, the youth population increased at an average rate of 2.4 per cent per annum from 9.85 million in 2000 to 11.10 million in 2005, as shown in *Table 14-1*.

TABLE 14-1

POPULATION BY AGE GROUP, 2000-2010

Age Group	Million Persons			% of Total		
	2000	2005	2010	2000	2005	2010
0-14	8.00	8.72	9.18	34.0	32.6	31.7
15-39	9.85	11.10	11.65	42.0	41.5	40.2
More than 39	5.64	6.93	8.13	24.0	25.9	28.1
Total	23.49	26.75	28.96	100.0	100.0	100.0

Source: Economic Planning Unit

14.05 The total number of youths employed in 2005 was about 6.67 million or 60.3 per cent of the total youth population compared with 6.16 million or 62.9 per cent in 2000. Youths were mainly employed in the manufacturing sector, accounting for 24.0 per cent in 2005, as shown in *Table 14-2*, indicating the expanding opportunities in the sector. This was followed by the wholesale and retail trade, hotels and restaurants sector, which accounted for 23.8 per cent and other services at 18.9 per cent.

TABLE 14-2

YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BY SECTOR, 2000 AND 2005

Sector	'000 Persons		% of Total		Average Annual Growth Rate (%)
	2000	2005	2000	2005	8MP
Agriculture, Forestry, Livestock & Fishing	770.9	751.1	12.5	11.3	-0.5
Mining & Quarrying	17.9	21.2	0.3	0.3	3.4
Manufacturing	1,731.0	1,603.5	28.1	24.0	-1.5
Electricity, Gas & Water	25.7	29.2	0.4	0.4	2.6
Construction	498.7	598.6	8.1	9.0	3.7
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate & Business Services	351.4	493.4	5.7	7.4	7.0
Transport, Storage & Communications	266.4	326.0	4.3	4.9	4.1
Wholesale and Retail Trade, Hotels & Restaurants	1,197.1	1,588.8	19.4	23.8	5.8
Other Services	1,303.6	1,259.5	21.2	18.9	-0.7
Total	6,162.7	6,671.3	100.0	100.0	1.6

Source: Economic Planning Unit

14.06 In terms of occupational category, the proportion of youths employed in the professional and technical category increased from 12.0 per cent in 2000 to 18.7 per cent in 2005, as shown in *Table 14-3*. In addition, the proportion of youths employed in the administrative and managerial category increased by 2.8 per cent, while those in the clerical and related workers category declined by 1.6 per cent during the same period, attributed to higher educational attainment of youths.

TABLE 14-3
YOUTH EMPLOYMENT BY OCCUPATION, 2000 AND 2005

Occupation	'000 Persons		% of Total		Average Annual Growth Rate (%)
	2000	2005	2000	2005	8MP
Professional, Technical & Related Workers	736.6	1,248.8	12.0	18.7	11.1
Administrative & Managerial Workers	223.9	425.5	3.6	6.4	13.7
Clerical & Related Workers	779.1	736.7	12.6	11.0	-1.1
Service Workers, Sales & Related Workers	1,430.7	1,023.9	23.2	15.3	-6.5
Agriculture Workers	764.9	654.7	12.4	9.8	-3.1
Production & Related Workers	2,228.0	2,581.7	36.2	38.7	3.0
Total	6,163.2	6,671.3	100.0	100.0	1.6

Source: Economic Planning Unit

Youth Development Programmes

14.07 Youth development programmes such as leadership and skills training as well as entrepreneurial skills were implemented by various ministries through youth associations in cooperation with the private sector and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). To strengthen the management and implementation capacity of public sector agencies, the National Youth Development Action Plan was launched in 2004. The Action Plan placed emphasis on eleven core elements in youth development, which included the economic and social well being of youths, capacity building, leadership qualities, participation in the *Rakan Muda* programme, social integration and political awareness among youths.

Leadership Training

14.08 In line with the objective of moulding a generation of dynamic youths imbued with qualities such as discipline, positive values and good ethics, leadership training programmes were conducted at the national, state and district levels. During the Plan period, a total of 380,090 youths participated in leadership training programmes at the various youth skills training institutes. Schools and institutions of higher education continued to provide leadership training programmes covering aspects such as communication skills, negotiation skills, social interaction techniques and other aspects of character building. These programmes were also provided to youths in rural areas including those in land development schemes. A total of 24,500 rural youths participated in leadership training programmes organised by the Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, the Federal Land Development Authority as well as the Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industries.

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14.09 During the Plan period, new approaches were adopted to ensure effective implementation of *Rakan Muda* Programme. This included the planning as well as implementation of activities and programmes in consultation with youths to meet their expectations and needs. In addition, *Rakan Muda* motivators were recruited to encourage participation of youths at the grass root level in the programmes. A total of 10 *Pusat Rakan Muda* at the state and district levels were completed during the Plan period which facilitated and enhanced the implementation of this programme.

14.10 To instil the spirit of national unity and patriotism among youths, the *Program Latihan Khidmat Negara* (PLKN) was implemented in 2003. The three-month programme was also aimed at moulding Malaysian youths of all races into the future generation of leaders with sound values and strong character. The training modules covered areas such as physical fitness and endurance, their roles and responsibilities in nation building, essentials of good citizenship and accountability with emphasis on character building. As at the end of the Plan period, 135,700 youths were trained at 76 training camps established nationwide.

14.11 Youths were encouraged to participate in youth associations to enable them to be involved in the decision making process. The number of youth associations increased from 5,500 in 2000 to 8,000 in 2005, while their membership increased from 2.2 million to 2.8 million during the same period. However, this represented only 26 per cent of the total youth population in the 15-39 age-group, indicating the need to encourage greater participation of youths in these associations. To enable effective planning and management of youth development programmes, the membership of the National Youth Consultative Council (NYCC) was broadened beginning 2004. In this regard, representatives to the NYCC

were not restricted to leaders of youth associations only but extended to other groups such as the academicians, politicians and entrepreneurs.

14.12 Representation and participation in youth programmes at the international level provided better exposure and wider knowledge to youth leaders which helped to further develop their leadership qualities and skills. In this regard, about 1,250 youth leaders attended seminars and conferences as well as participated in work camps at the regional and international level during the Plan period. Youth leaders were also involved in activities organised under the International Youth Exchange Programme, thus exposing them to developments in participating countries such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Thailand and the United Kingdom. During the Plan period, more than 5,000 Malaysian youths participated in this Programme.

Skills Training

14.13 Skills training continued to be provided to meet the demand for workers in the manufacturing and construction sectors as well as those in the services sector in areas such as hospitality and information and communications technology (ICT). These various skills training institutes such as *Institut Kemahiran Belia Negara* (IKBN), *Institut Latihan Perindustrian* and *Pusat Giat MARA* provided training to 246,030 youths during the Plan period. Of this total, 137,940 youths were trained at diploma and certificate level in areas such as electrical and mechanical engineering, civil engineering, electronics, automotive and photography. Through the non-institutional training, 108,090 youths were trained in courses such as motor mechanics, computer maintenance, fashion designing, tailoring, bakery and hair styling. In addition, training in soft skills was also provided covering subjects such as interpersonal communication, effective English communication and ICT to enable them to gain employment.

14.14 Private training institutions also offered a wide range of skill courses for youths. These courses, which included production technology and ICT, ranged from basic to advanced level. During the Plan period, 130,000 youths were trained by private skills training institutes. In addition, collaboration with private sector companies provided wider opportunities for youths to gain exposure and training in areas such as automotive, air-conditioning, furniture making and landscaping.

Entrepreneurial Development

14.15 Entrepreneurial development programmes were carried out to nurture the entrepreneurial potential of youths and to enable them to participate actively in business enterprises as well as promote self-employment. Towards this end, *Majlis Amanah Rakyat* and training institutes such as *Institut Keusahawanan*

Belia Negara conducted training, seminars and short courses as well as provided advisory services to young and new entrepreneurs. A total of 79,740 youths benefited from these programmes at the state and district levels during the Plan period.

14.16 Measures were also undertaken to inculcate the spirit and culture of entrepreneurship among students in schools and institutions of higher education. The *Usahawan Muda* Programme, which involved the setting up of *Kedai Koperasi*, was implemented in schools with the cooperation of the Parent Teacher Association (PTA). Co-curricular activities, which incorporated elements of entrepreneurship were also carried out. Under the *Program Pembangunan Usahasiswa*, a total of 32,470 students in public institutions of higher education participated in various business activities such as *Kelab Keusahawanan Desasiswa* and *Pasar Pelajar*.

14.17 Recognising the use of ICT as an enabler to increase productivity, various measures were undertaken to encourage young entrepreneurs to utilise more knowledge-intensive applications in their businesses. In this regard, the *Program Pembangunan Usahawan Belia ICT* was conducted during the Plan period benefiting 25,710 youths. Under this programme, courses on computer literacy, software and computer science certification as well as seminars on entrepreneurial development were conducted to develop and enhance knowledge and understanding of ICT application among young entrepreneurs.

Preventive and Rehabilitative Programmes

14.18 Social problems such as drug addiction, incest and rape cases showed an increasing trend during the Plan period. Drug addiction among youths continued to increase from 24,940 cases in 2001 to 41,684 cases in 2005, while rape cases increased from 662 in 2001 to 919 in 2005. Recognising the seriousness of drug addiction and the correlation of drugs to social problems and crimes, preventive and rehabilitative programmes continued to be implemented by various government agencies and the NGOs to address social problems among youths such as loafing, gangsterism, violence, bullying, substance abuse, indiscipline and other undesirable behaviour. This included the establishment of a Special Cabinet Committee on Eradication of Drugs to ensure efficient coordination and implementation of drug eradication efforts.

14.19 During the Plan period, measures were also undertaken to improve the rehabilitation programmes at *Pusat Serenti* throughout the country. Awareness campaigns and exhibitions were carried out to enhance public cooperation in reducing drug problems particularly among youths and students. These included the *Belia Benci Dadah* campaign organised by the Ministry of Youth and Sports in cooperation with youth associations and the Say No to Drugs campaigns, which were undertaken in primary and secondary schools. Voluntary bodies

such as *Persatuan Pencegahan Dadah Malaysia* (PEMADAM) and *Persatuan Bekas-Bekas Penagih Malaysia* (PENGASIH) also played a vital role in the rehabilitation of drug addicts by providing counselling and spiritual guidance.

III. PROSPECTS, 2006-2010

14.20 Youth development programmes during the Ninth Plan period will emphasise on empowering youths to enable them to be more involved in nation building, promoting national unity and social integration as well as become role models in society. Efforts will be undertaken to equip youths with the necessary skills and qualities to ensure them of a better future and to meet the accelerated pace of economic development and the changes in the environment. In this regard, youth development policies and programmes will be reoriented to enhance their effectiveness. The strategic thrusts for the development of youths will be as follows:

- ❑ *empowering youths for the future through improved access to education and training;*
- ❑ *increasing participation of youths in youth organisations;*
- ❑ *inculcating the spirit of competitiveness among youths;*
- ❑ *strengthening the legal framework of youth development programmes; and*
- ❑ *promoting national unity and social integration.*

Youth Population and Employment

14.21 During the Plan period, the youth population is expected to increase by an average rate of 1.1 per cent per annum, from 11.10 million in 2005 to 11.65 million in the year 2010, as shown in *Table 14-1*. Recognising the role of youths in national development and to meet the demands of a knowledge-based economy, youths will be encouraged to continuously acquire a higher level of knowledge, develop positive thinking and attitudes as well as leadership and entrepreneurial skills. Towards this end, youths will be provided with greater access to education and training while developing them to be more talented, innovative, creative and excellent in their chosen fields.

14.22 The proportion of youths employed in the professional and technical occupational category is expected to be higher with the increase in the output of professional and technical graduates from institutions of higher education and skills training institutions as well as expansion in employment opportunities in the services and manufacturing sectors. Employment of youths as skilled workers will also be higher due to the increasing demand for these workers.

Youth Development Programmes

14.23 During the Plan period, youth development programmes will give greater focus for youths in the 15-30 age-group. To empower youths to participate actively in nation-building, their accessibility to education and training will be further enhanced while leadership and skills training, entrepreneurial development and healthy lifestyles programmes will be carried out more extensively. In addition, self-confidence, discipline and other positive elements of character building will be incorporated in these programmes. Measures will also be undertaken to increase their accessibility to life long learning programmes through distance education and non-formal education as an effort to improve their employment opportunities and quality of life.

14.24 A National Youth Act will be formulated to ensure effective implementation of youth development programmes and to facilitate and encourage greater participation of youths in youth associations. The Act will also incorporate inter-ministerial roles in youth development to ensure youth programmes are implemented in an integrated, coordinated and synergistic manner. To enable the Government to plan and implement target-specific youth development programmes more effectively, a profile on youth will be developed. In addition, the National Youth Research Institute will be established within existing facilities to undertake research in six areas, namely socialisation of youths, culture and religion, youth potentials and integrity, youth organisations, leadership and volunteerism, youth and education as well as youth and political awareness.

14.25 The implementation of youth development programmes during the Plan period will involve active participation of the private sector, NGOs and youth associations to complement public sector efforts. Recognising the important role of youths in building a nation for the future, the NGOs and youth associations will be entrusted to mobilise youths to fulfill the objectives of preserving national unity as well as economic and socio-political stability. In this regard, joint programmes between public and private sectors will be conducted targeting youths of various races.

Leadership Training

14.26 During the Plan period, efforts will continue to be undertaken to build a new breed of young leaders as prime movers of development. In this regard, the curriculum of leadership training programme will be strengthened to make it more proactive and relevant to future needs. It is estimated that about 100,000 youths, including NGO leaders, will be trained under this programme.

14.27 The Government will continue to develop and instil leadership qualities among youths by conducting courses and training on good values and positive attitudes. Special courses on values will also be conducted to mould youths as responsible citizens and role models in society. Greater awareness on the important role of youths in forging and promoting unity towards building a united Malaysian nation will be given priority in the leadership training programmes. To check racial polarisation among youths, more multi racial youth organisations will be established to allow for greater interaction among them. In addition, good moral values such as understanding, harmony, respect for the culture and tradition of other races, goodwill and trust will also be inculcated among the youths to enhance nation building efforts. The private sector will also be encouraged to contribute to youth training as part of their social responsibility. More active participation of youths at the international level will be promoted through inter-governmental and non-governmental institutions.

14.28 During the Plan period, the implementation of *Rakan Muda* Programmes will be strengthened to focus on specific target groups, particularly youths who are out of the education system and the unemployed youths as they are more vulnerable and easily influenced to be involved in negative and unhealthy activities. In this regard, *Rakan Muda* Programmes will focus on efforts to create role models among youths who are caring, skilled and dynamic. In addition, these programmes will also focus on enhancing cooperation amongst agencies involved in the social agenda. In cooperation with the National Unity and Integration Department, the *Rakan Muda Jiran Muda* Programme will be targeted to those below the age of 15 years and aimed at developing positive values as well as preventing them from being involved in unhealthy activities. About 300,000 children will be involved in this Programme. To ensure effective implementation of the *Rakan Muda* programmes, more *Penggerak Rakan Muda* will be appointed to attract a larger number of youths to participate in these programmes.

14.29 Collaboration efforts will also be undertaken with the private sector and NGOs to encourage a wider participation of their employees in the *Rakan Muda* programmes. In this regard, new *Rakan Muda* centres will be built, particularly in urban and industrial areas to provide sports and recreational facilities as well as counselling and advisory services to youths in this group.

14.30 A new programme, *Program Memperkasakan Tenaga Muda*, will be implemented specially for youths who are not selected for PLKN. Activities and modules under the PLKN will be carried out to ensure those who are not selected for the PLKN training be exposed to similar programmes. To better prepare students for the PLKN, the Government will incorporate this programme into the co-curricular and curriculum in secondary schools. The participants of the PLKN will be encouraged to join *Rakan Muda* Programmes to continuously nurture the spirit of volunteerism and solidarity amongst them.

Skills Training

14.31 To meet the requirements of a skilled labour force in the country, a more comprehensive skills training programme for youths will be undertaken. The range of skills training programmes will be expanded to include new areas such as building and aircraft maintenance and hotel management, as well as the introduction of new technical and vocational programmes. Training in soft skills such as effective communication, hospitality, creative thinking skills and business management will be given greater emphasis. Towards this end, community colleges, industrial training institutes and skills training institutes will be built while existing infrastructures and training facilities upgraded. These measures will cater for the training of about 300,000 youths during the Plan period. To increase the employability of rural youths, skills training opportunities will be increased, particularly for youths from the land development schemes.

14.32 The Government will continue to encourage the private sector to provide skills training for youths through collaboration and the forging of strategic partnerships. Through this approach, courses relevant to the industry will be identified and implemented to provide experience and hands-on training that will increase their employability. In this regard, training programmes implemented under the Hotel Apprenticeship Scheme and Non-Formal Skills Training Programme will be intensified. A total of 150,000 youths will be trained during the Plan period.

Entrepreneurial Development

14.33 In line with the objective of creating and establishing a commercial and industrial youth community, new business opportunities will also be made accessible to youths through strategic arrangements with private companies and privatised entities. Youths will be further trained to take advantage of existing franchise and vendor development programmes, the umbrella-concept marketing arrangements and venture capital schemes of large enterprises.

14.34 To assist youths in their businesses, seminars and courses on financial and business management, business opportunities and motivation will be conducted. These programmes will provide a head start for youths in business ventures and promote self-employment, particularly among fresh graduates.

14.35 The *Program Pembangunan Belia Tani* will be introduced during the Plan period to further encourage and attract more youths to undertake projects in the agriculture sector. The implementation of this programme will include the setting up of agro-based business ventures and encouraging the use of modern technologies thus creating a new and modern generation of young farmers. Components of the programme will include training and advisory services for

youths to undertake agro-based commercial activities. It is estimated that about 1,000 agro-entrepreneurs will be created among youths during the Plan period.

14.36 With the increasing application of ICT in business, the ICT Entrepreneur Development Programme for youths will be continued during the Plan period. The components of the programme will include courses and seminars in computer literacy as well as certification of computer science, IT development and promotional programmes. A total of 50,000 youths is expected to benefit from this programme.

Preventive and Rehabilitative Programmes

14.37 During the Plan period, the Government will continue to give emphasis on preventive and rehabilitative programmes to combat social problems among youths. Closer cooperation between the local communities and government agencies in stemming crimes among youths will be established. In addition, training programmes for youths in the high-risk crime group will be carried out to nurture them to become responsible citizens.

14.38 Concerted efforts will be undertaken to address drug addiction and trafficking among youths. In this regard, awareness programmes will be intensified which includes the *Belia Benci Dadah* campaign. A larger number of religious leaders will be enlisted to inculcate positive and spiritual values among youths, particularly on the negative impact of drug abuse and deviant behaviours. In addition, new approaches to reach out to these groups of youths will be adopted to ensure effective implementation of preventive and rehabilitation programmes.

14.39 Education on drug prevention and dissemination of information will be carried out to reduce the number of drug addicts and enhance community participation in the preventive and rehabilitative treatment efforts. Rehabilitation and training programmes will be improved to enhance the employability of the inmates and to reduce re-offending cases. More service centres will be established to provide individual, group and family counselling. These centres will be the main focus of integration between the Government agencies and the NGOs in developing a conducive environment to assimilate the drug addicts into the society.

14.40 As part of the long-term approach to tackle indiscipline in schools, an integrated campaign against gangsterism and secret society affiliations among students involving the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Housing and Local Government and police as well as PTAs will be launched. In addition, voluntary organisations such as PEMADAM, PENGASIH as well as other social and religious organisations will be encouraged to increase their participation in preventive and rehabilitative programmes.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT AND ALLOCATION

14.41 The various skills and leadership training programmes aimed at empowering youths will be undertaken by the Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Entrepreneur and Cooperative Development and Ministry of Human Resources. In this regard, a total of RM5.3 billion will be provided under the Ninth Plan, as shown in *Table 14-4*. Of this total, 75.1 per cent or RM4.1 billion will be provided for skills training while 9.3 per cent or RM509.5 million will be allocated for management training.

TABLE 14-4

DEVELOPMENT EXPENDITURE AND ALLOCATION FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES, 2001-2010 (RM million)

<i>Programme</i>	<i>8MP Expenditure</i>	<i>9MP Allocation</i>
Leadership Training	63.5	115.5
Skills Training	3,930.6	4,103.6
Commercial Training	158.6	179.5
Management Training	361.7	509.5
Entrepreneurial Development	40.1	20.0
<i>Rakan Muda</i>	304.5	334.0
Preventive and Rehabilitation	96.7	199.4
Total	4,955.7	5,461.5

Source: Economic Planning Unit

V. CONCLUSION

14.42 Youth development programmes during the Eighth Plan period were directed at producing a productive and disciplined young generation. This was achieved through the implementation of various skills and leadership training programmes at the IKBN and various other training institutes. During the Ninth Plan period, youth development programmes will continue to focus on skills training and entrepreneurial development to encourage self-employment among youths. They will be trained to be resilient and to withstand challenges in a competitive environment through on-the-job training and exposure to real work situations. Youth leadership programmes will give emphasis on the role of youths in society and fostering national unity with a sense of common and shared destiny.