

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **3,200 MALAYSIAN WORKERS RETAINED AND HIRED THROUGH ISKANDAR MALAYSIA EMPLOYMENT GRANT**

Johor Bahru, 28 June – The Iskandar Malaysia Employment Grant (IMEG) has helped 248 companies in Johor to retain and hire 3,200 Malaysian workers since it was introduced in 2016.

The grant was introduced to help increase employment in the state of Johor. It does this by helping companies in Johor to retain current Malaysian workers or hire new ones by way of financial rebate against salary paid to be utilized for on-the-job upskilling and reskilling of these workers in the companies. This has proven to be very effective for the companies to build a sustainable and productive workforce, especially during and post COVID-19 pandemic, and reduce dependency on foreign workers.

“Ultimately, it’s the Rakyat from the targeted communities such as unemployed graduates, single mothers and those affected by the pandemic who benefitted the most as they were able to keep their job or be hired into new ones. This is very much in line with Iskandar Malaysia’s focus for economic and social recovery in these few years,” said Dato’ Dr Badrul Hisham bin Kassim, Chief Executive, Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) at the recent Iskandar Malaysia Human Resource Summit (IMHRS) 2023.

Participating workers experienced a 12% increase in their basic wages with women making up 40% of the total beneficiary of the grant.

The grant’s third instalment, IMEG 3.0, which was disbursed between July 2022 to May 2023 saw Tourism, Advanced Manufacturing and Logistics being the top 3 industries where their workers benefitted the most.

IMEG is funded by the government's stimulus packages - PENJANA (Pelan Jana Semula Ekonomi Negara) and KWC-19 (Kumpulan Wang Covid-19).

At IMHRS, IRDA also introduced the Iskandar Malaysia Expatriate Services system, a comprehensive online processing platform for companies to apply for Employment Pass (EP) in Iskandar Malaysia and is linked with the relevant agencies namely the Immigration Department of Malaysia (JIM), the Companies Commission of Malaysia (SSM), the Inland Revenue Board of Malaysia (LHDN), and other relevant agencies.

The services offered through this online platform include company registration, quota approval, expatriate pass application, dependent pass application, digital letter of undertaking (LOU), and pass & e-pass issuance.

This initiative will be integrated with the Xpats Gateway, a Single Window system announced by YB Tuan Rafizi Ramli, the Minister of Economy.

According to Dato' Dr. Badrul Hisham, "The Iskandar Malaysia Expatriate Services is a significant milestone in the region's commitment to facilitate employers and global talents. With its user-friendly interface, comprehensive information resources and system integration features, the online system will play a vital role in simplifying expatriate processes, promoting compliance and enhancing the overall expatriate experience in Iskandar Malaysia."

The Iskandar Malaysia Human Resource Summit 2023 (IMHRS) gathered more than 250 HR leaders and practitioners to bring to light and discuss the latest trends and issues in human capital especially, post Covid-19 pandemic.

These include topics such as 'Human Capital Development Trends in Digital Market Place' and 'The Rise of Crossborder Digital Market Place Opportunity' plus updates on TVET development and micro-credentials industry programmes.

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#### Background of Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA)

Iskandar Regional Development Authority (IRDA) is a Malaysian Federal Government statutory body tasked with the objective of regulating and driving various stakeholders in both public and private sector towards realising the vision of developing Iskandar Malaysia into a strong and sustainable metropolis of international standing.

IRDA's statutory powers and functions are designed to achieve the above objective and include the following core functions of planning, facilitation, and promotion.