

Big funding awaits bumis with viable business ideas

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CYBERJAYA: Bumiputra entrepreneurs with an impressive business pitch may vie for a piece of the RM30mil fund that has been put aside this year for recipients of the Bumiputera New Entrepreneurs' Start-Up Scheme (Superb).

Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had launched the three-year RM100mil Superb scheme on Jan 27, which provides grants for applicants who come up with viable business ideas.

In April, the Prime Minister handed out RM6.5mil worth of grants to 25 bumiputra entrepreneurs who had excelled in the first series of the scheme.

Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Mohd Irwan Serigar Abdullah said the programme aims to unearth entrepreneurial talents among bumiputras, who will be given guidance and assistance to be successful in their businesses.

"We are discussing with government-linked companies and private entities which may be interested to

invest in these start-up companies or purchase the products or idea solutions pitched by some of these entrepreneurs (in the future)," he told reporters here yesterday after meeting participants of the second Superb series.

Close to 2,000 entries were received in the second series that started on May 1, with 610 partici-

pants shortlisted to present their business pitch.

Bumiputra Agenda Coordinating Unit (Teraju) chief executive officer Husni Salleh said the winners will be named next month and those picked will each receive up to RM500,000 for their winning pitch.

Teraju is formed in February 2011.