

KUALA LUMPUR, (Bernama) -- Determined to improve his standard of living, T. Suresh, 41, ventured into the dairy cattle breeding two years ago. The entrepreneur from Ulu Tiram, Johor, sought assistance from the Indian Community Entrepreneur Development Scheme (SPUMI) under the National Entrepreneurial Group Economic Fund (TEKUN), and from a start-up of only five cows, he has now

and motivating me. I am currently working on a project to cultivate 'Napier' grass for cattle breeding on a four-hectare land," he told Bernama. Suresh also supplies fresh milk to well established hotels, as well as companies and cooperatives in Johor. With the experience gained and success achieved, he is eager to share his knowledge and guide those who are interested to become

pressing machine for her business in Senawang. The fruits of her hard labour had enabled Alemelu to open up another branch, while last year her company had earned a profit of around RM1.2 million. "For 'middle class' entrepreneurs like me, having TEKUN is very helpful as it offers loans with a low-interest rate. However, apart from financial assistance, we also need to be hardworking and

TEKUN NASIONAL ENCOURAGES INDIAN ENTREPRENEURS TO SUCCEED

By Siti Radzeah Rahmat



succeeded in rearing more than 150 beef cattle, including those imported from Australia, on a 20-hectare farm. Suresh then expanded his business venture with the cultivation of local fruits such as cempedak, jackfruit, banana, durian and pandan coconut, on a 10-hectare land in Jemaluang, Johor. "Thank you, to Najib (Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak) and the government for helping

entrepreneurs. Suresh, is among 20,003 Indian entrepreneurs who had received a SPUMI loan that was implemented by the government in the effort to improve the standard of living of Indians in the country through the field of entrepreneurship. Meanwhile, for the owner of a recycling company, K. Alemelu, 37, the financial assistance received enabled her to purchase a forklift and

never give up on our dreams of becoming successful," explained the entrepreneur who came from Seremban, Negeri Sembilan. Another SPUMI entrepreneur, lorry transport service operator S. Kannathasan, 48, said TEKUN Nasional fulfilled his dream of owning his own business and helped changed his life for the better. Kannathasan, who came from Kuala Krau, Pahang, started



his business with a one-tonne lorry purchased with a loan of RM7,000. After paying for the first loan, he took a second loan of RM15,000 and bought a three-tonne lorry. "The SPUMI loan is beneficial for small-time entrepreneurs like me. Now, I even have 17 assistants to help with my side income work of providing weed control service and fertilising oil palm trees," he added.

Meanwhile, TEKUN Nasional managing director and chief executive operation Datuk Baharom Embi said SPUMI funds had been channelled to entrepreneurs since 2008. The project is under a special poverty eradication programme of the Ninth Malaysia Plan of the Economic Planning Unit of the Prime Minister's Department. It is coordinated by the Socioeconomic Development of the Indian Community Unit.

Baharom said, from 1998 to January 2018, the total disbursed by TEKUN Nasional to 402, 842 entrepreneurs was RM5 billion, while for SPUMI financing, from 2008 until last month, a total of RM267 million was disbursed to 20,003 Indian entrepreneurs.

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