



*The Malay Chamber of Commerce lauds the government for outlining strong and bold aspirations in the six goals of the New Industrial Master Plan 2030.* FILE PIC

## Malay trade body lauds plan, calls for concrete action

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The New Industrial Master Plan 2030 (NIMP 2030) has the potential to be a game-changer for the economy, especially to revitalise and accelerate growth in the manufacturing sector, said the Malay Chamber of Commerce (DPMM).

The association proposed several improvements to the seven-year plan so that NIMP 2030 could achieve its aim of empowering small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the manufacturing sector.

DPMM, in a statement on Friday, said there was a disconnect between the big players, or multinational companies, and SMEs, especially Bumiputera SMEs.

“The big players in the export sector operate in their own ecosystem, with little linkage to SMEs.

“From what we gather, they only source about 20 per cent of their input from local SMEs.

“This means that the domestic value added would be very small.

“The government should make it mandatory for big exporters, both local and foreign, to source at least 50 or 60 per cent of their raw materials and components from local SMEs.”

DPMM agreed with the target set by NIMP 2030 to increase SMEs’ share of exports to 25 per cent from 12 per cent.

The association, however, pointed out that Bumiputera SMEs contributed less than three per cent of total national exports.

“More must be done to increase this to at least 10 or 12 per cent of the national total.”

DPMM said it wanted to see more details and quantitative targets in NIMP 2030 to prevent the

plan becoming merely an “aspirational” effort.

“For instance, on carbon tax, we should already be declaring the carbon price mechanism and the tax rate instead of just setting mandates and guidelines.

“On the multi-tier levy towards rationalising the reliance on low-skilled foreign worker, the levy amounts and the tiers should have been defined.

“There should also be a schedule for the progressive reduction in the six million documented and undocumented foreign workers to a number, such as one million, by 2030.

“We also hope that the government will implement similar radical resets in other sectors, in particular agriculture and services.”

The association, nevertheless, applauded the government for outlining “strong and bold aspirations” in the six goals of NIMP 2030.

The goals are to increase economic complexity, create high-value job opportunities, extend domestic linkages, develop new and existing clusters, improve inclusivity, and enhance environmental, social, and governance practices.

“We see that the government wants to move away from labour-intensive and foreign worker-dependent industries to more capital-intensive industries that require more skills.

“We would like to see more high-skilled jobs created and for underemployment by skill to be substantially reduced, thus, improving the wage levels of Malaysian workers in the whole of the manufacturing sector, not just a small corner of it.”