

# KERATAN AKHBAR

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## KL to be regional hub for start-ups, digital industry

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**KUALA LUMPUR:** The government plans to make Kuala Lumpur a regional hub for start-up companies as well as the digital industry, to boost the country's digital economic activities.

Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli said the digital economy is one of three high-value strategic sectors which can stimulate investment and generate high-paying jobs as the ministry is focusing on the restructuring of the national economy.

He added that apart from boosting existing industries such as oil and gas, manufacturing, semi-conductors and commodities to a higher value chain

by focusing on enhanced value downstreaming, the three strategic sectors that the Economy Ministry is concentrating on are energy (transition towards renewable energy), digital economy and food security.

He said the ministry is currently collaborating with other ministries involved in the digital economy ecosystem, namely the Science, Technology and Innovation Ministry, Communications and Digital Ministry and Investment, Trade and Industry Ministry to bolster the country's digital economy.

Rafizi said the collaboration is necessary to coordinate the public

support system implemented through various agencies towards an integrated approach (single window approach) to improve the digital ecosystem.

"This will increase the number and performance of start-ups as well as accelerate the transition of the private sector to the digital economy," he said in a statement yesterday.

He said the cooperation with the ministries is aimed at starting the development of concepts and coordination of functions among government agencies towards the implementation of a digital government (govtech), which produces integrated data-based and

digital public service products (single window govtech).

"One key step to achieve these two targets is to increase the attractiveness of Kuala Lumpur as a centre for start-up companies and the regional digital industry, to woo investments and digital talent to the country.

"It requires aggressive policy changes that cover various areas, including the consolidation of the efforts of government agencies, a more efficient and open work visa process, more attractive digital incentives and the production of workforce in the digital industry on a national scale." - Bernama