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AKHBAR	THE STAR
TAJUK ARTIKEL	GOVERNMENT'S MOVE TO CONTINUE MYSTEP IN 2026 HAILED
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Government's move to continue MySTEP in 2026 hailed

PUTRAJAYA: The government's decision to continue the Malaysia Short-Term Employment Programme (MySTEP) in 2026 is seen as appropriate in providing short-term job opportunities for graduates, including persons with disabilities (OKU) and senior citizens, says work and disability expert Dr Wan Arnidawati Wan Abdullah.

She said MySTEP offers OKU an early opportunity to build confidence, develop basic skills and establish an employment record.

"Most OKU are not lacking in ability, but in opportunities to prove their capabilities," she told Bernama.

Wan Arnidawati said participation by senior citizens also reflects the need to reassess their role in the workforce.

"With suitable adjustments to tasks and working hours, the programme could support their continued economic participation," said Wan Arnidawati, who is also head of the Social Gerontology Laboratory at the MyAgeing Research Institute, Universiti Putra Malaysia.

However, she noted that the programme's success depends on post-placement support, including job guidance and employers' understanding of the needs of OKU and senior citizens.

Nordiana Mohd Samsul, 28, said the programme offers renewed hope for those seeking work experience in the public sector.

The Kota Baru native said MySTEP shows that OKU are trusted and given opportunities to contribute.

"Although the duration is short, opportunities like this are important for building experience and self-confidence. At least it gives me a chance to try," said Nordiana, who suffered permanent injury to her right hand in a road accident last year.

Abdul Mizan Yusuf, 30, described MySTEP as a meaningful initiative that ensures equal opportunity for all segments of society.

"The programme reflects the government's concern for our needs. It is not just temporary employment, but also recognition of the capabilities of OKU," said Abdul Mizan, who lost sight in his left eye following a workplace accident.

He added that the continuation of MySTEP demonstrates the government's commitment to build an inclusive society.

Media reports yesterday said the government had decided to continue the programme next year in line with the rules and procedures set out in the MySTEP Personnel Service Procurement Guidelines, effective Jan 1, 2026.

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