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YOUNG MINDS CREATING SMART SOLUTIONS FOR THE CITY THROUGH ROBOTICS

TAMAN CONNAUGHT, KUALA LUMPUR, 25 July 2019 – A total of 176 teams comprised of primary school and secondary school students in Kuala Lumpur took part in the **state level of the National Robotics Competition (NRC)** that was held from **24th to 25th July 2019 at SMK Taman Connaught**. The robotics competition saw more than 500 students from 7 years old to 19 years old developing autonomous robotics inventions to improve infrastructures and operations for smart cities.

The NRC is organised by the **Ministry of Education Malaysia** and **Sasbadi Holdings Berhad** since 2005 and aims to help students build a solid foundation in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). The competition also promotes their Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) while challenging them to put their creativity, critical thinking, and teamwork skills to test in creating robotic solutions to solve real-world problems based on yearly themes.

This year, the theme **Smart Cities** is centred on new concepts, ideas and technologies that help to make increasingly urban cities to become more sustainable and liveable. Students are challenged to develop solutions to improve smart city operations such as efficient energy management, better governance and public transport systems.

Present at the competition's closing ceremony was **YBhg. Encik Firdaus Bin Said, Head of Human Development Management Unit, Education Office of Keramat**. In his speech, he said, *"This theme gives our young participants an early exposure to Industrial Revolution 4.0 (IR 4.0) through concepts such as the Internet of Things (IoT) and Artificial Intelligence. I am excited to know that through hands-on learning, participants of NRC not only equip themselves with skills of the future in robotics but also, are given an opportunity to understand the challenges brought by IR 4.0 and build solutions around it"*



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In the competition, each team participated in one of six categories - **Regular Pro, Regular Rookie** (teams who are participating in NRC for the first time), **Open, WeDo Regular, NRC Football** or **STEM Invention & Innovation**. In the Regular Pro and Rookie category, Primary School students (7 to 12 years old) are challenged to build and programmed a self-driving taxi; Lower Secondary students (13 to 15 years old) focus on smart lightings; and Upper Secondary students (16 to 19 years old) are challenged to create and program a robot that installs new wireless node devices. The teams are evaluated in terms of practicality and creativity in using LEGO® MINDSTORMS® technology on a table-top playing field.

In the Open category (opened to Primary, Lower Secondary and Upper Secondary School students), teams are challenged to create robotics solutions in the areas of governance, the workplace and education, then present their project to a group of judges. Introduced last year, the WeDo Regular category requires teams from 7 to 9 years old to program the journey of a driverless school bus with LEGO® Education WeDo 2.0. The NRC Football category is a robotics football challenge whereby teams programmed 2 autonomous robots (1 goalkeeper and 1 shooter) and competed against each other. Last but not least, students from 10 to 14 years old in the STEM Invention & Innovation category are challenged to build a motorised machine to climb and get a ball at the top of a pole.

Powered by LEGO Education, the NRC state level competitions are organised across 13 states and 3 federal territories from July to August 2019. The winning teams will compete in the **NRC National Finals 2019 at AIMST University, Bedong Kedah on 20th to 22nd September 2019**. Winners of the finals will have the honour to represent Malaysia and compete against global teams at the 16th World Robot Olympiad (WRO) in Győr, Hungary this November. The Malaysian Contingent has achieved exemplary results in the WRO, having been crowned Overall Champions 7 times. For more information about the competition, please visit <http://nrc.sasbadi.com>



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ABOUT THE ORGANISER - SASBADI HOLDINGS BERHAD

Sasbadi Holdings Berhad is a Malaysian-listed company that specialises in providing education solutions. Founded in 1985, the company has grown over the years from producing quality educational books and materials to a leading education solutions provider through its diverse offerings. This includes academic and non-academic educational materials, digital and technology-enabled products, applied learning tools, and a network marketing business.

The Group anchors its business on five core pillars, namely Creating Contents, Developing Technologies, Nurturing Skills, Enriching Life and Forging Connections. Recognising the importance of 21st Century learning, Sasbadi has been championing Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education and working closely with key partners such as the Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia and Lego Education through robotics for schools. For more information, please visit <http://www.sasbadiholdings.com/>

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