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Budget-Human Resource/BM

RM100 MILLION GRANT FOR TRAINING R&D PERSONNEL

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- A Training Grant of RM100 million will be established in line with the government's intention to create more skilled manpower in R&D, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

"This will be channelled to private companies for financing the training of their R&D personnel," he said when tabling the 2003 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat.

He said the government would continue to emphasise measures to increase the number and enhance the quality of skilled manpower to meet market needs.

"The nation is shifting to a knowledge-based economy. To ensure a smooth transition, the nation requires more skilled manpower," said Dr Mahathir, who is also the Finance Minister.

For this purpose, RM1.62 billion is allocated to the Human Resources Ministry, Youth and Sports Ministry and Entrepreneur Development Ministry to implement various skills training programmes, including the provision of infrastructure facilities and to finance management expenses.

Dr Mahathir said RM621 million was allocated to the Human Resources Ministry to implement and manage 29 Industrial Training Institutes and Skills Training Centres with a capacity of 18,200 trainees.

Apart from this, RM410 million is allocated to the Youth and Sports Ministry to implement and improve the facilities of 25 Institut Kemahiran Belia Negara (IKBNs).

The institutes will have the capacity to train 12,600 people with the completion of eight new IKBNs.

The Entrepreneur Development Ministry was allocated RM355 million to establish 33 Institut Kemahiran Mara to train 49,600 trainees at various skills levels, he said.

-- BERNAMA

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