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Skills

PRODUCE MORE MARKETABLE GRADUATES, TRAINING INSTITUTIONS TOLD

KUCHING, July 15 (Bernama) -- Local training institutions must produce more marketable graduates who do not require retraining when entering the job market, Sarawak Assistant Agriculture Minister Francis Hollis Tini said today.

He said data from the Human Resources Ministry showed that millions of ringgit had been spent in retraining 10,000 graduates nationwide, who faced difficulties in finding jobs last year.

"The institutions would be doing the students a disservice if they train them but don't prepare them well and they are not able to get a job when they graduate," he said at the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between Acer Sales and Services Sdn Bhd and Akademi ITC Sdn Bhd (AITC), here.

Under the MOU, AITC, an approved training provider under the National Vocational Training Council Malaysia (MLVK), will provide selected students with a month's practical training in Information Technology (IT) in Acer Sarawak, a global IT company.

Francis said that based on feedback from employers, some of the major problems among local graduates included the lack of language proficiency and knowledge in information and communication skills.

Coupled with the lacklustre global economic climate, the inexperienced graduates also failed to fit in as a team, he said.

Francis said 13 per cent of the 31,000 jobless graduates between July 1997 and June last year had failed to land jobs even though they had first-class degrees.

As such, he said, parents, especially those from the rural areas, should make full use of the educational opportunities available, such as funds in the form of government loans for skill-training in training institutions accredited by MLVK, including AITC.

About 35,000 skilled trainees were expected to benefit from the allocation under the economic stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mohamad Mahathir recently, he said.

He said it was imperative that students and parents make good use of the allocation, which is open to all Malaysians who want to get certified skills qualification but lack the financial means.

-- BERNAMA

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