

Najib: Consider taking up critical courses

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PEKAN: Religious school students pursuing tertiary education should consider taking up critical courses such as medicine, engineering and accounting.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said under the present system, they could opt for professional courses or fields which had a high demand for workers, such as information technology.

"They should go for these courses as these graduates are the most sought after in the job market," he said at the Kuliyyah Sultan Abu Bakar's convocation ceremony

here yesterday.

The open examination system allows students at religious schools to sit for major examinations like Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia and Sijil Tinggi Persekolahan Malaysia and taking subjects other than religious studies.

Kuliyyah Sultan Abu Bakar was established in 1941 and accepts students who have completed their SPM and are planning to sit for the Sijil Tinggi Agama Malaysia and STPM.

Najib said many religious school students were now pursuing their tertiary education in the Middle

East, with 6,000 of them in Egypt alone.

Later in Kuala Pahang, Najib urged other petroleum companies to emulate Chevron, which had built a community centre for fishermen and their families.

"This is how companies should contribute back to the society."

Chevron, owner of the Caltex brand, co-operated with the Malaysian Fisheries Development Authority to build the centre, which will be used to teach information and communication technology to villagers in Kuala Pahang.

The company spent RM400,000

for the project and will provide ICT facilities and teachers.

Najib said LKIM had also received RM40 million to build a high-tech aquaculture project in Kuala Pahang, Kedah, Kelantan and Johor.

"Through this project, fishermen are assured of a steady income even during the monsoon season," he said.

At the function, Najib received RM30,000 from Malaysian Resources Corp Bhd group managing director Shahril Ridza Ridzuan for the Fishermen Children Education Fund.