

TVET SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME FOR B40

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RM36.41 million allocated for every intake to encourage uptake of vocational courses, says PM

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THE government yesterday announced the Derasiswa B40 TVET (B40 TVET Scholarship) programme for students of the bottom 40 (B40) income families to pursue tertiary education in technical vocational education and training (TVET) at local public higher learning institutions.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said the government would set aside RM36.41 million for every intake.

The first intake under the programme, Ismail Sabri said, would involve 1,000 students and it aimed to increase the number of those pursuing TVET.

"I am confident the programme will provide the children of Keluarga Malaysia, especially those from B40 households, greater access to education and develop their career in TVET. *Insyallah* (God willing)," he said at the launch of the National TVET Week 2022 at the Sultan Salahuddin Abdul Aziz Shah Polytechnic in Shah Alam near here.

Present were Higher Education

Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad and Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan. Together in attendance was Media Prima Bhd group chairman Datuk Seri Dr Syed Hussain Aljunied.

Ismail Sabri also said he wanted to see an improvement in the accreditation, recognition and certification of TVET programmes to achieve the government's target set out under the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP).

He said under the 12MP, the government was targeting to get at least 55 per cent of Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) school leavers to pursue tertiary education in TVET-related programmes by 2025.

Ismail Sabri also highlighted the need for exposure to TVET at an early age to generate interest and awareness on the opportunities in pursuing TVET careers.

"The government has implemented several interventions to provide greater education opportunities for Keluarga Malaysia, including *Program Penajaan Pendidikan* (Education Sponsorship Programme).

"Generally, there are a number of education sponsorship strategies including loans, scholarships and financial assistance."

He said the government was committed towards developing TVET in the country. This was reflected through the high amount of financing borne by the government, where 80 per cent of public TVET institutions in the country were offering their programmes for free.

He added that 171,412 TVET programmes were offered at diploma and degree levels from 2019 until last year.

The prime minister also announced June 2 as National TVET Day.

He said this was to acknowledge those who contributed towards the development of TVET in the country.

The date, he said, was picked in conjunction with the establishment of the Ungku Omar Polytechnic in 1969, which was the earliest education institution to provide TVET education.

"We should celebrate National TVET Day to recognise the contributions by those involved in TVET-related matters," he said.

The TVET Empowerment Agenda by the National TVET Council, he said, had outlined several high-impact strategies and initiatives to strengthen the country's TVET education.

Among them were the TVET Collaboration Hub and the establishment of the Government-Industry TVET Coordination Body or GITC.

"Another historical moment today was the launch of the National TVET Rebranding Plan, which includes the National TVET Week celebration.

"I was told that this year's National TVET Week celebration started on Saturday and the people had benefited from programmes such as seminars and forums involving several ministries, TVET providers in the public and private sectors, as well as industry players," he said.