

PM: NEW POLICY NEEDED FOR TVET

Change parental perception of TVET as a second-class education, Higher Education Ministry urged

PONTIAN

THE Higher Education Ministry has been asked to formulate a new policy on Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob.

He said the ministry and related agencies needed to rebrand the stream to eliminate parental perception of TVET as second-class education or irrelevant.

“Many parents have a negative perception of TVET and consider this stream as second-class or focusing on dropouts only.

“However, this education stream is the main choice in countries such as Germany and France,” he said in his speech at the launch of Kolej Komuniti@Pontian at the Sungai Pinggan Muafakat Complex, here, yesterday.

Also present were Johor caretaker Menteri Besar Datuk Hasni Mohammad and Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad.

Elaborating on the proposal to formulate a new TVET policy, the prime minister said students should be given the option to choose subjects in the field at an earlier stage.

“In developed countries, TVET education starts at the beginning of the children’s education, but it is different here where TVET is taught to students after Form Three. Students can only choose subjects starting Form Four.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob inspecting items on exhibition at the launch of Kolej Komuniti@Pontian, at the Sungai Pinggan Muafakat Complex in Pontian, Johor, yesterday. BERNAMA PIC

“Hence, we (the government) propose the ministry formulates a new policy on TVET so students can choose the subjects they want to pursue from Form One.”

On the opportunity for TVET certificate holders to pursue a tertiary education, Ismail Sabri said the matter had been expanded compared with before when the TVET certificates could not be used to further their studies at universities.

“Today, there are several uni-

versities in the country that accept vocational certificates and TVET training certificates so that students can further their studies.

“Hence, parents should not feel inferior when their children study in vocational schools and TVET institutions, because our tagline is ‘TVET menjadi pilihan pertama untuk kerjaya’ (TVET is the first choice for a career),” he said.

He also expressed his confidence that every skilled worker produced by TVET would be able to provide a concrete paradigm shift and create other skilled workers, as well as their own jobs.

“The proof is that the marketability rate of TVET graduates in 2020 is 87 per cent, which is more than the marketability rate of graduates at the national level, at 84.4 per cent.

“Specifically, the marketability rate of community college graduates in the same year was 94.2 per cent. This is the highest among the public skills training institutes we have in Malaysia,” he said.

Ismail Sabri added TVET products, including community colleges, were popular with employers, therefore, community colleges played a big role in offering access to the local community to improve their skills.

“With the lifelong learning approach provided by community colleges, I am confident the aspiration to provide training and skill needs at all ages is feasible.”

Ismail Sabri said in the 12th Malaysia Plan (12MP), the government had TVET as one of the drivers of change, especially to meet the industry’s demand for labour.

“Therefore, the government has allocated RM6.6 billion to implement various initiatives under relevant ministries and agencies, including Department of Polytechnic Education and Community College Education under the Higher Education Ministry.

“For this year, the government has allocated RM25 million to the department to implement TVET training programmes,” he said, adding that the government was also targeting 25,000 trainees to benefit from this allocation.

At the same event, Ismail Sabri also announced that four community colleges in Johor would have permanent campuses as approved in the 12MP.

He said the community colleges involved were Kolej Komuniti Bandar Tenggara, Kolej Komuniti Pagoh, Kolej Komuniti Parit Sulong and Kolej Komuniti Simpang Renggam.

“All these projects involve a cost or allocation ceiling of RM61.2 million,” he said.

At the event, Ismail Sabri officiated the launch of Kolej Komuniti@Pontian which is the second satellite college established in Johor after Kolej Komuniti@Parit Sulong.

He also launched the Jamin Kerja Keluarga Malaysia (Malaysian Family Employment Guarantee) Career Carnival here, which offers more than 5,000 jobs.

The career carnival was organised by the Social Security Organisation to offer employment opportunities directly to the public, especially in the Pontian district and the surrounding areas.