

EASIER TVET ENTRY FOR DISABLED

Cabinet to also study recruitment quota in govt agencies for disabled, says Anwar

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THE unity government will make it easier for people with disabilities to enrol in technical education and vocational training (TVET) programmes. Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the issue was brought to his attention during a dialogue with disabled students and educators at Dewan Sultan Iskandar in Universiti Teknologi

Malaysia, Johor, yesterday.

Anwar said he would raise the issues shared during the dialogue with the relevant ministers.

“The revision of the entry requirements will be communicated to Deputy Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, who also chairs the National TVET Council.

“I am sorry, I was not aware of this matter.

“To ensure that all government agencies and ministries ensure recruitment... yes, we must review that.

“The TVET council is chaired by Zahid. I will tell him that although consideration is given to the disabled, do not impose conditions such as (having the use of) two hands. The conditions include those who have disabilities.

“This is possible; we can provide the needed space to review TVET conditions for disabled students... I think there is no problem,” he said.

UTM alumni Dr Ruzimi Mohamed had told the prime minister that one of constraints disabled students faced when applying for TVET programmes, was the requirement that they have the use of both hands.

Ruzimi said some disabled people

could draw and write using their feet or mouth.

Anwar said he would also discuss with the cabinet having a one per cent employment quota for the disabled at ministries and government agencies.

The prime minister also said the government would ensure students with hearing disabilities had adequate facilities to sit their Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM) examinations in Johor.

Currently, SPM students with hearing disabilities are required to travel to Penang to take their examination.

Anwar said he was unaware that Penang had the only school in the country equipped with the facilities for hearing impaired

students to take their SPM.

He was responding to a question from a participant during the dialogue, who related the hardship faced by Johor students in sitting the SPM.

Anwar said he would continue his engagements with students and the young people as it allowed him to learn more about their problems.

“As prime minister I do not know everything,” he said.

He said he would need time to resolve the issues raised as he did not want to increase the country’s debts, which stood at RM1.5 trillion.

“I cannot borrow billions and get the next generation to pay for it,” he added.