

EMPOWERING STUDENTS, INDUSTRY

EXTRA RM200m FOR TVET PROGRAMMES

PM says funds will be channelled through Skills Development Fund Corporation

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday announced an additional RM200 million allocation to boost technical and vocational education and training (TVET) programmes to meet the demand of high-value sectors, on National TVET Day yesterday.

This is in addition to the RM6.8 billion allocation announced in the 2024 Budget in October last year to empower the TVET industry

Anwar said the funds would be channelled through the Skills Development Fund Corporation to support students pursuing skill development programmes in seven industries.

These, he said, included electric vehicles, cybersecurity artificial intelligence, advanced materials, electronics technology (integrated circuit design), engineering design and wafer fabrication, farm mechanisation, and agricultural and livestock automation.

"These industries encompass energy transition, technology and digitalisation, high-value electrical and electronics, and agriculture and essential farming activities.

"Financial support in these fields will encourage TVET institutions to develop training programmes aligned with the government's vision to strengthen high-growth and high-value sectors and industries."

He said this at the event held at the Industrial Training Centre here.

Present were Defence Minister Datuk Seri Mohamed Khaled Nordin, Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Zambry Abdul Kadir, Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek and Human Resources Minister Steven Sim.

Anwar also launched the National TVET Policy 2030, which will serve as a guideline for TVET implementation in Malaysia with a focus on producing skilled



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim visiting a booth after the launch of the National TVET Day in Kuala Langat yesterday. With him is Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi (second from right). BERNAMA PIC

workers with high incomes.

The policy outlined five thrusts: world-class quality and education, efficient and productive industry collaboration, sustainable TVET financing, comprehensive and synergistic management, and promoting TVET as a primary career choice.

Anwar said this aligned with the National Energy Transition Roadmap and the National Industrial Master Plan 2030, which aimed to create high-impact job opportunities that meet the demands of Industry 4.0, climate change, sustainability practices, demographic shifts and global value chain integration.

He said national values must be instilled in the youth as the country strove to boost human capital in TVET fields and disciplines.

He said the students, regardless of their races, must understand Malaysia's history to achieve this.

"There are Malays, Indians, Chinese and others, so they (the values) must be there.

"Otherwise, they will only have skills but not these values."

He said TVET could be strengthened via larger allocations if corruption that caused the country to lose hundreds of millions of ringgit did not occur.

He said TVET had been identified as having great potential to grow and attract foreign investment demanding high focus and expenditure by the government.

"Courageous action needs to be taken for us to stop the abuse of buying TVET equipment for RM40 million while pocketing RM5 million.

"In a flood-mitigation project, if the price is RM1 billion, RM200

million gets embezzled.

"This betrayal must be stopped so that we can return the money to the people.

"The children have to understand why people are angry with us, why there is talk about corruption, embezzlement and mismanagement.

"Yes, this is why it is difficult for us to find money."

Meanwhile, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said the RM200 million allocation would be distributed to TVET institutions next month, based on the courses offered, aligning with the first intake of TVET students for this year.

Zahid, who chairs the National TVET Committee, said seven TVET courses would start next month with an enrolment of 15,000 students.

"We have shortlisted students for the courses that will run until the end of this year.

"The infrastructure is ready, so we will start next month."

He said a US\$1,000 minimum wage for the local workforce had been agreed upon based on engagement sessions with several foreign companies, and training for workers would be conducted based on the needs of the companies to avoid mismatch.

He added that there were proposals to create specialised TVET programmes for underrepresented groups, including indigenous communities and persons with disabilities.

"The second proposal to create more TVET segments for people with disabilities and indigenous people from Sabah and Sarawak also aligns with the Madani economic framework."