

MEETING INDUSTRY NEEDS

'Federal-state TVET collaboration vital'

KOTA KINABALU: Collaboration between the federal and state governments in technical and vocational education and training is vital in meeting the oil and gas sector's need for skilled workers in Sabah.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said all stakeholders — particularly universities and TVET institutions — must support this initiative.

"Our focus must now shift to Sabah's youth. Universities, TVET providers, and state and federal agencies must be more flexible by opening up opportunities for them to enrol in TVET programmes.

"Take charge of parts of these programmes and begin training

them immediately.

"Even if they do not graduate with formal ministry-endorsed certificates, these can be company-issued qualifications tied directly to industry needs," he said.

Anwar said training could be conducted by the companies that needed certain standards and requirements.

"If a company needs 200 graduates from a particular institution to fill roles, let the company handle the training. The priority is industry readiness," he said.

Anwar was speaking at the launch of the first phase of the Estel Enterprise Sabah Sdn Bhd project at the Sipitang Oil and Gas Industrial Park (SOGIP), at the Sabah International Convention

Centre yesterday.

Present were Chief Minister Datuk Seri Hajiji Noor, Sabah Oil and Gas Development Corporation chairman and SOGIP manager Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Dahlan and Qhazanah Sabah Bhd chairman Dr Yusof Yacob.

Anwar also stressed on the importance of preparing the next generation of workers with proper training and early industry exposure so that they were ready to contribute meaningfully in their respective fields.

"There must be no compromise. Do not burden young people with excessive bureaucracy or technical red tape.

"You must prioritise their future," he said.