

Government may repackage skills development trainings
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KUALA LUMPUR (Jan 31, 2012): The government is mulling repackaging the training offered in the Malaysian Skills Certificate (SKM) into two levels to ensure more highly skilled workers are produced in the future.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam said that Malaysia needs more than 1.5 million skilled workers in 2020, thus it is vital to fine tune training programmes to ensure these needs are met.

He said as such, the government is looking into bundling SKM into two levels from its present five.

"At present, our skills training certification has five levels and we find that those who graduate in level four and five are better accepted by the industry and they command good salaries.

"However those at the lower levels are not widely accepted," said Subramaniam at a press conference after attending a gathering organised by the Skills Development Fund Corporation yesterday.

He said the ministry found that many students often drop out after the first two levels for various reasons. "So to avoid that, we have proposed this idea," said Subramaniam.

He explained that at present, those who enrol for the SKM level one and two are required to undergo six months of training each, while level three to five require one year of training each.

"In our new proposal, automatically they will have to go for two years' training. They cannot just attend for six months and leave because if they do that, it will be a waste of resources," said Subramaniam.

He added that the ministry will bring up the matter in the Human Capital Development Cabinet committee chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin soon.

Subramaniam said the ministry needs to consult the stakeholders such as the training providers as a lot of matters such as course structures and loans need to be looked into.

"We need to take in all their (stakeholders) input, thoughts and ideas but I am quite confident that in time they will accept it.

"This will also put skills training at a level where people will graduate with greater confidence and acceptability," he said adding that there are close to 1,000 skills training providers in the government and private sectors.

The SKM, established in 1993, is a skills and work-based certification system that is achieved through assessment and training. It is open to youths aged 15 to 35 years old who are interested in learning new skills in a variety of fields such as education, tourism, oil and gas, and customer service.

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