

BUDGET: Programme To Assist Unemployed Graduates To Be Launched By Year End
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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said the Graduate Employability Blueprint will be launched at the end of the year to assist graduands who are still unemployed to seek employment.

He said that each year, almost 180,000 graduands with diplomas or bachelors degrees completed their studies from institutions of higher learning.

"The blueprint will give emphasis on strengthening the marketability of graduands.

"In this regard, the government will set up the Graduate Employability Taskforce with an allocation of RM200 million," he said when tabling the 2013 Budget in Parliament, here Friday.

Moving on to the issue of knowledgeable, creative and innovative human capital, Najib said training programmes would be developed to hone new skills in line with future needs of industry in a high-income and developed economy.

For this purpose, he said, RM3.7 billion would be allocated next year to train students in technical and vocational fields.

Najib, who is also the finance minister, said the government would also allocate RM440 million to the Skills Development Fund Corporation to give out loans to trainees pursuing skills training.

This measure would benefit nearly 40,000 trainees undertaking the Malaysia Skill Certificate Level One to Five.

Meanwhile, he said the government would allocate RM366 million to upgrade as well as purchase equipment for Industrial Training Institutes and the National Youth Vocational Institutes (IKBN).

The Prime Minister said various skills training programmes would be carried out in line with the objective to transform the country's key industries towards high technology, innovation and high income.

"Towards this end, focus will be given to create a professional and talented workforce in selected industries, including oil and gas, shipping, information and communication technology (ICT), creative and biotechnology," he said.

He said that next year, about 5,000 trainees were expected to enrol in these programmes.

Meanwhile, the government would provide an allocation of RM50 million to train 3,200 Malaysian Indian students in the estates to equip them with skills in line with market demand.

"The training will be conducted by Industrial Training Institutes and colleges under the Dual National Training Scheme," he said.

The Dual National Training Scheme aims to churn out more skilled manpower.

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