

PM committed to strengthen TVET

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 18 (Bernama) -- The government is committed to enhancing youth capabilities in the area of Technical, Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to meet the needs of the high-tech industries, said Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Tabling the Mid-Term Review of the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP – 2016-2020) in the Dewan Rakyat today, Dr Mahathir wanted the TVET institutions to study and adopt best practices from Japan through the application of knowledge as well as the latest technology skills in teaching and learning.

"Collaboration between the industry and academia is important to balance supply and demand.

"Priority will be given to developing industry-related skills by implementing industry-based programmes and recognising technologists as professionals," he said.

The Prime Minister said in order to achieve that goal, the government assured to continue the pre-employment training programme under the Future Workers Training Programme by providing funds to finance the programme at the state's skills development centre.

Dr Mahathir, who wanted to improve access to quality education and training, said the government would set higher standards of education as well as cultivate pure values and positive work culture to emulate the Japanese practice.

Hence, he said, the government would review both the Malaysian Education Development Plan and the Universities and University Colleges Act 1971 and to replace them with a

comprehensive and better legislation towards creating academic freedom and the freedom of speech.

The Prime Minister also said that in the final period of the 11MP, the government would carry out the construction of the Outpatient and Specialist Treatment Centre at Universiti Malaya Medical Centre, Faculty of Veterinary Medicine Complex at Universiti Malaysia Kelantan and the Teaching Hospital at Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

"The government will also improve the quality of teaching staff of higher education institutions by continuing the sponsorship of the Academic Training Scheme to enable them to further their studies at the doctorate level (PhD)," he said.

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