

KERATAN AKHBAR

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TVET scholarships for B40 students

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SHAH ALAM: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob yesterday announced the implementation of a scholarship programme called Dermasiswa B40 TVET, specifically for B40 students pursuing studies this year in technical and vocational education and training (TVET) at public higher learning institutions under the Higher Education Ministry.

He said this was to encourage more students to pursue their tertiary studies in TVET, adding that the first intake of the programme would involve 1,000 students.

"The government projects that each intake of the programme would involve a financial implication of RM36.41 million," he said when officiating at the National TVET Week

event yesterday.

Ismail Sabri expressed confidence that the programme would provide more opportunities for Keluarga Malaysia children, especially from B40 households, to gain access to education at a higher level and build their own careers in the TVET sector.

He said TVET has been identified as one of 14 game-changers in the 12th Malaysia Plan, and it was appropriate for TVET to be the main choice of youths in preparing themselves for the future, like in other developed countries.

Also present at the event were Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Dr Noraini Ahmad, Education Senior Minister Datuk Dr Radzi Jidin, Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan, Rural Development Minister

Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid and Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Faizal Azumu.

Ismail Sabri also announced that National TVET Day would be celebrated on June 2 every year to recognise the contributions of many quarters to TVET.

"It is also in conjunction with the establishment of Politeknik Ungku Omar, which is the country's earliest institution to provide TVET education, since 1969."

He added that apart from the declaration of National TVET Day, the organising of National TVET Week was also among measures outlined in the National TVET branding plan.

Ismail Sabri said the government's focus on TVET was evident through the provision of high

funding, in which 80% of public TVET providers offered programmes for free, and a total of 171,412 TVET programmes at the diploma and bachelor's degree levels were offered from 2019 to 2021.

He said although public awareness of the lucrative income offered to those who work in the TVET sector had increased, it had yet to achieve the target set, adding that there must be a paradigm shift to create a more positive perception towards TVET, with the support of parents, youths and the industry.

"There are many social media platforms that can be optimally utilised to promote TVET, including showcasing the success of TVET graduates and alumni, thus making it a career of choice." - Bernama