

## KERATAN AKHBAR

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**ALOR STAR:** The Community Development Department has produced 493 graduates with Malaysian Skills Certificates and Malaysian Skills Diploma certificates this year, said Rural Development caretaker Minister Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid.

He said the graduates were trainees of the Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programme conducted by the department at its Skills Academy in Seri Iskandar and Gopeng, Perak.

"The department has allocated RM2 million this year for the implementation of TVET certificate and diploma programmes."

He was speaking after attending the department's 13th Malaysian Skills convocation ceremony yesterday where a total of 460 graduates received their scrolls.

Also present were the department's director-general Ahmad Kamal Idris Mohd Nawawi and Rural Development Ministry secretary (Policy and strategic planning) Abdul Kahar Abdullah.

Mahdzir said the department's TVET focuses on sewing and culinary skills, with costs for studying fully borne by the government.

He added that the students comprise youths from B40 families. - Bernama