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REVAMP EFFORTS

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KUALA LUMPUR: A total of RM6.8 billion has been allocated in the 2024 Budget towards Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said the first Madani Budget in 2023 had paved the way towards revamping the national TVET programme via cooperation with government-linked companies (GLCs) and private companies.

He said as of Oct 5, a total of 17 GLCs and 44 private companies had inked 61 memoranda of understanding to cooperate in developing the curriculum and contributing equipment and expertise.

"Petronas, for example, had worked with the National Youth Skills Institute in Bandar Penawar, Johor to prepare 41 industrial trainees, curriculum development and equipment in accordance with the petrochemical industry specifications in Pengerang.

"Next year, RM100 million will be allocated to prepare industry-



recognised professional certification to TVET graduates and as incentives for the industry to continue to cooperate with TVET institutions," he said.

He said Human Resources Development Corporation (HRD Corp) would use RM1.6 billion in funds to prepare 1.7 million training opportunities.

HRD Corp will also reallocate 15 per cent of the levy collection to execute the Madani Training Programme comprising retraining and reskilling for micro, small and medium enterprises entrepreneurs as well as ex-con-



The 2024 Budget will see Technical and Vocational Education and Training receive an allocation of almost RM7 billion. FILE PIC

victs, the disabled, senior citizens and retirees.

"The goal of developing more future talent to meet the needs of industries will be fine-tuned and expanded via close cooperation between the government and industries."

Anwar said to address the lack of local talent and mismatch of skills, the Academy in Industry Programme would be implemented to enable on job training up to 18 months with an allocation of RM70 million.

He said the nation's level of competitiveness in major sectors such as aerospace, as well as medical and digital devices, would

depend on a skilled workforce.

"The government is allocating RM30 million as an incentive for industries to train the local workforce and offer their expertise as trainers and fund innovation in the development of new products.

He said Perbadanan Tabung Pembangunan Kemahiran together with the TVET Training Fund worth RM180 million would facilitate education loans to 12,000 trainees undergoing skills certification programmes.

He said RM20 million would also be allocated to help trainees undergoing courses such as maritime, arts in the National Arts

Culture and Heritage Academy (Aswara), as well as maintenance, repairs and operations in the aerospace sector.

"A total of RM17 million will also be allocated to implement the Tahfiz TVET Programme.

"This will open up opportunities to tahfiz students to enhance their skills on top of continuing their religious studies," he said.

Anwar added that to encourage the people to increase their expertise and delve into new sectors, a tax exemption of up to RM2,000 for special skills upgrading or self-improvement courses would be extended until 2026.