

The Star, Wed 11 May 2016

# TVET no longer a 'last option'

KJ: Public has changed mindset about technical and vocational education

**PUTRAJAYA:** The perception towards technical and vocational education and training (TVET) in Malaysia has improved over the past few years, and it's no longer seen as a "last option" in career choices, said Khairy Jamaluddin.

The public has realised the potential of TVET due to its important role in national economic development and its high employability level, the Youth and Sports Minister said.

In conjunction with the National Youth Day in 2010, the Malaysian Youth Council launched the 1Youth 1Skill (1B1K) programme to help youths get involved in skills training programmes and select TVET as a career choice.

**Those who pursue TVET in Malaysia are assured that their training is in line with what the industry wants.**

Khairy Jamaluddin

"At that time, the perception was that TVET was meant only for those who didn't complete Form Five, those who were expelled from school or those who had been sent for juvenile rehabilitation.

"But today, the public has changed its mindset towards TVET. It is not seen as a second or last option in one's career choice.

"People acknowledge that products of technical and vocational education are highly employable and have an easier career path," Khairy said at the fourth convocation ceremony of the 1B1K programme.

The Government recognises TVET graduates as assets to the country. Graduates of the National Youth Skills Institute have a 90% employability rate - which means nine out of 10 graduates will definitely get a job.

Khairy observed that some degree holders could not land a job

mainly because their courses were not tailored to the demands of industries.

"Those who pursue TVET in Malaysia are assured that their training is in line with what the industry wants," he added.

Khairy said Malaysia should emulate developed countries like Germany, Japan and South Korea where TVET was given top recognition.

"These more developed countries, with advanced technology that is ahead of others, have made TVET a priority in their education system.

"In Germany, nearly 60% of their students are in the vocational and technical stream. The country's

economy and advances in automotive technology are spearheaded by the successes of TVET graduates.

"Malaysia should emulate these countries. And that is why the Government has invested a lot in TVET. The last budget saw a RM1bil allocation to enhance the quality of the TVET education system," he said.

About 500 youths who participated in the 1B1K programme received their certificates at the ceremony yesterday.

At the event, Khairy also launched the 1B1K-UMP programme, which is an initiative by Universiti Malaysia Pahang to promote TVET and increase the competency of working youths.