CREATING TECHNICALLY SKILLED WORKERS FOR THE NATION

AINA NADA

THE Vocational Education Transformation effort spearheaded by the Education Ministry will see the nation equipped with a pool of skilled and semi-skilled human capital, parallel with the country’s aspirations.

The effort started in 2012 through the ministry’s Technical and Vocational Education Division with the primary aim of uplifting vocational education as a mainstream line of education.

"I also realised the government’s aspirations of having a group fulfilling the talent pool of technically skilled workers, in hopes of achieving the dream of being a high-income nation by 2020," said Zainuren Mohd Nor.

In ensuring that future human capital was fortified with a workforce with high skills and demand, Zainuren said it was imperative that vocational education be improved and adapted to current times.

“This is so that the quality of our skilled workers does not only fulfil the market demand, but also contributes to a new wealth creation for the country,” he added.

Zainuren said this was achieved through various initiatives such as the conversion programme in producing this group who are equipped with high demand in the industry.

"It reached 95 per cent of 15 vocational colleges by 2012 and the number has since risen to 80, which are in operation. Six more colleges are in the pipeline, and 15 more will be opened under the VETAS programme that further develops the skills of graduates in related fields.

"This partnership with the unit is integrated with involvement from SapuraKencana Petroleum Bhd, which focuses on upskilling according to the oil and gas industry needs. The programme has seen significant growth, as students have been offered positions at the company.

"The success of this programme is due to the government’s commitment in uplifting the vocational education system and the efforts made by the ministry and its partners," he said.

EXPOSING STUDENTS TO REAL-LIFE JOB ENVIRONMENTS

KUALA LUMPUR: On-the-Job Training (OJT) is a compulsory component of the Diploma in Engineering Technology (VETAS) for a period of four months, OJT exposes students to the real-life job environments.

Conducted by the Vocational Education Technical and Vocational Education Division (VETA) for a period of four months, OJT exposes students to the real-life job environments.

Chief executive officer Rosida Othman said the institute carried out skills training in the fields of welding, automotive, machinery, and safety, all of which are fields with high demand in the industry.

"OJT has developed the Virtual Welding Training System in addition to the Lloyd’s Register certification and are also the first in the country to have a real-world training environment," she said.

The academy works with the Education Ministry’s Technical and Vocational Education Division in an industrial partnership where final year students take the Malaysia Vocational Diploma in welding undergo professional upskilling programme that fulfills all oil and gas industrial specifications.

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"The success of this programme is due to the government’s commitment in uplifting the vocational education system and the efforts made by the ministry and its partners," she said.

"The most important things to survive in this line is passion and the determination. With both, you can succeed and do well," she said.

Both Sarah and Syazana are employed by SapuraKencana Petroleum with a salary of RM8,000 to RM10,000.

Aina Nada