Go for knowledge

Youths should equip themselves to enhance marketability

Second Planning and Resource Management, Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan, wants Sarawak youths to equip themselves with added knowledge and skills to enhance their marketability in the job market.

He said the launching of the Sarawak Corridor of Renewable Energy (SCORE) two years ago would not only hasten development in the state but also create immense job opportunities for the locals.

"It is expected to create at least 1.3m job opportunities by 2030 and SCORE needs 25% manpower in the professional and management group, 9.5% in the engineering and technical group, 26% in the semi-skilled group and 99% in the unskilled," he said in the text of his speech read by Assistant Minister in the Chief Minister's Department (Entrepreneur Development) Mohd Naroden Majais at the launching of a career fair at Politeknik Kuching in Matang near Kuching yesterday.

He said through the career fair programmes, students would be exposed to knowledge and input beneficial to them as preparation to enter the job market.

"We realise that due to rapid development, institutions of higher learning have been tasked to churn out graduates who are not only marketable but also of quality. Graduates must not only equip themselves... they must also be good image-wise, have good communication skills and a good command of the English language," he said.

The Ministry of Higher Learning has come out with a framework which includes degree, finishing school, apprenticeship programme, bridging gap programme, entrepreneur training programme, internship and career fair," he disclosed.

Saying that the ministry had implemented several programmes to create quality graduates, Awang Tengah said the Human Resource Ministry had been entrusted by the government to facilitate in job searching among graduates.

Apart from this, he noted that the government has approved a big allocation to create recruitment kiosks at public places with the first such kiosks being set up in Bukit Bintang. This is a new approach to help the graduates and so far nine kiosks have been set up nationwide, he added.