

Biotechnology field new, jobs still being created: Govt

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Government cannot say for sure if graduates from the biotechnology stream will be able to find the jobs most suited to their field of study, said Deputy Minister of Higher Education Datuk Ong Tee Keat.

He said the area has been only recently introduced in the country and that the ministry was making efforts to collect information on graduates from the field of study.

"In view of the fact that the area is only about a year-old now, the Ministry is still making the efforts to widen the scope of job opportunities for the presently small number of graduates from the field," he said when replying to a question from Senator Wan Ubaidah Omar at the Question and Answer session at the Dewan Negara sitting here Thursday.

In the 2004/2005 session, 488 graduates received their degrees in the field of Biotechnology compared with 459 in the 2003/2004 session.

Public institutions offering courses in the field include Universiti Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Universiti Islam Antarabangsa, Universiti Malaysia Sabah and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak.

Ong said that the Ministry was also beefing up some of the measures taken to strengthen the industry such as increasing the grants given out to public institutions to increase research and development efforts.

"Under the Ninth Malaysia Plan, we will be raising the level of R&D at the public institutions of higher learning," he said. – Bernama