

# Govt to assist 32,000 find jobs in Sabah



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**KOTA KINABALU:** The state government assures that it will help 32,000 job-seekers in Sabah through the Malaysia Training Scheme (SLIM).

SLIM will implement various programmes with the participation of the private sector as part of the latter's corporate social responsibility (CSR) to overcome unemployment.

Chief Minister, Datuk Seri Musa Haji Aman said the state government welcomed efforts that help to reduce unemployment among graduates in Sabah.

"I believe the private sector through their CSR can help to train candidates with potential to become quality workers based on the current job market demands," he told reporters after launching a state-level SLIM outreach programme at Universiti Malaysia Sabah, here, which had 44 selected companies participating.

He advised graduates not to be choosy when seeking employment and not to be discouraged when they fail to secure jobs.

The SLIM outreach programme, launched on June 1 last year, attracted 8,000 participants, with 400 of them in Sabah, securing employment.

Based on last year's record, a

total of 8,000 graduates in the country obtained jobs after taking part in SLIM.

Meanwhile, BERNAMA reported that a large portion of the 3.3 million jobs expected to be created by 2020 will be filled by 70 per cent of students in the vocational stream.

Deputy-Director of School Operation, Technical and Vocational Education Division of the Education Ministry, Zainuren Mohd Nor, said that under the Vocational Education Transformation programme, the courses offered would be based on the demands of the workforce markets.

"Vocational education provides opportunities for students, especially those who prefer doing practical training to attending academic classes, to get better careers," he said at the "Outreach Media" programme at the Beaufort Vocational

College recently.

He said the Education Ministry would work with other ministries, as well as the private sector, to meet the demands of the workforce market by 2020.

"Currently, we are working to increase the enrolment of students in vocational education to 40 per cent, from only five per cent now.

"In this vocational education transformation, we want to provide opportunities for students with a preference for hands-on training to choose the courses that they want," he added.

Zainuren said that besides providing the workforce with labour, 20 per cent of students who excelled in their studies would be sent to pursue studies at institutions of higher learning, while 10 per cent would be trained to become entrepreneurs.