

Jobs opportunity, training programmes during SL1M in UMS

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KOTA KINABALU: About 6,000 jobs opportunity and training programmes were offered for job seekers from 40 companies during the State-level 1Malaysia Training Scheme (SL1M) Walk-In-Interview at Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS) here.

Minister in the Prime Minister Department Datuk Seri Panglima Abdul Rahman Dahlan who launched the two-day programme yesterday disclosed since December last year, over 140,000 youngsters have either benefited directly or indirectly from the implementation of SL1M.

"This year, we are targeting 25,000 graduates to enjoy the benefit from the programme," revealed Dahlan.

He assured the job seekers that the government will continue to double its efforts to help them improve their skills and employability.

"And all you have to do is to be prepared and be here. Grab the golden opportunity offered once a year," urged Dahlan.

We cannot achieve success if we don't work hard because that is the basic principle of success, he stated.

"So we should emulate the success story of Tan Sri Syed Mokhtar Al Bukhari, the 12th richest person in Malaysia who came from a poor family.

"Since young, he learned to do business, help his family to grow vegetables and sell it on the market, sell roti canai.

"Despite many failures, he never gave up and later with the help from MARA, he ventured into the rice business. He went through many challenges and hardship before enjoying success," he shared.

He urged the job seekers to take part in the programme as the Prime Minister has announced the increase of SL1M allowance to RM2,000 from RM1,500 during the

event at central zone on Feb 24, this year.

Speaking to reporters later, Dahlan noted the SL1M programme has received an overwhelming response from both the job seekers and industries here.

He said that with about 6,000 jobs offered during the programme yesterday reflected the growing economy of Sabah which needed human resources to fill up the vacancies.

Dahlan also urged the locals to find jobs in Sabah and don't migrate to the peninsula even though there are more opportunities.

"I want the Sabahans to be better than their friends in the peninsula, and accept the challenge and programmes provided by the government," he asserted.

He also called on Sabahans to discard their inferiority complex to compete with not only the peninsula but with the best in the world and contribute to the state.

"Over the years since SL1M was implemented, the poverty and unemployment rates in Sabah has also reduced as many youths have secured jobs," he said.

Meanwhile, the federal Economic Planning Unit has started an infrastructure study together with Kota Kinabalu City Hall to develop the bus rapid transport (BRT) system.

"I have brought this matter to the Cabinet and Economic Council Unit a few times," he said, adding that the study is expected to be ready in Sept this year.

Among others, he said the proposed BRT will ease the traffic congestions between Inanam and Kota Kinabalu.

"I was told by the Public Works Department, the project will be divided into two phases and cost RM1 billion each," said Dahlan.

Also present were UMS Vice-Chancellor Prof Datuk Dr. D Kamarudin D Mudin and SL1M secretariat head Norashikin Ismail.