

'More jobs for TVET grads'

NO STIGMA: Khairy says vocational education vital for nation building

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IT was a bittersweet moment for retired civil servant Noriyah Abd Manan, 60, from Lumut, Perak, when she received the certificate for her late son, Mohd Shafie Faiz.

Shafie was to have received his certificate in automotive studies, which he completed at Tekat Automotive College in Kajang.

Sadly, he died in a motorcycle accident six months ago.

Shafie was supposed to be among 500 Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates from 14 skill training institutions at the fourth Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) iYouth iSkill (iB1K) convocation.

Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin presented the certificate to Noriyah, who received it on behalf of her son.

"Shafie was proud that he was able to finish his studies and acquire a skill he loved. He was preparing for the graduation ceremony in October last year but it was postponed.

"I feel proud and overwhelmed by his accomplishment," she said after receiving the certificate yesterday.

She said Shafie was the only son and the youngest of five children.

Present were Youth and Sports Ministry secretary-general Datuk Lokman Hakim Ali, Universiti Malaysia Pahang Vice-Chancellor Professor Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim and MYC president Mua'amar Ghadafi Jamal Jamaludin.

Since 2010, the iB1K programme by MYC has helped 4,976 youth re-



Youth and Sports Minister **Khairy Jamaluddin** (third from right) with Technical and Vocational Education and Training graduates at the fourth Malaysian Youth Council (MYC) iYouth iSkill convocation in Putrajaya yesterday. With him are Universiti Malaysia Pahang Vice-Chancellor **Professor Datuk Dr Daing Nasir Ibrahim** (second from left) and MYC president **Mua'amar Ghadafi Jamal Jamaludin** (second from right). Pic by Ahmad Irfam Mohd Noor

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ceive skills training at public and private institutions. It was launched in conjunction with Youth Day to help youth choose training and education in technical and vocational fields as their career paths.

During the event, Khairy launched iB1K-UMP Competent: TVET based on Lifelong Learning programme through the university's Advanced Education programme.

The initiative is aimed at empowering youth in TVET, while increasing the competence level of those working to meet the needs of industry.

Khairy said there was a shift in perception about TVET graduates, who were able to contribute to the

development of the country.

He said TVET graduates were more marketable compared with those from academic universities and they (TVET) should be proud for being an asset to nation building.

"We must acknowledge that TVET can pave the path for the country's future. The path of success no longer lies only in mainstream university education.

"Do not have this stigma that only university graduates can contribute to nation building and obtain jobs. We need to tap the skills and potential of youth in other areas too.

"If you look at developed countries with technological advancement, such as Germany and Japan,

they place a lot of emphasis on TVET, especially in their education systems, with more than 60 per cent of their high school leavers preferring vocational education," he said during the convocation.

He said Malaysia had begun to acknowledge the importance of TVET with RM1 billion allocated under the 2016 Budget to improve the quality and training of the vocational education system.

Khairy said the perception that TVET was only for those left behind in their studies, school dropouts, juvenile or rehabilitated youth was no longer valid as vocational training was a recognised pathway towards a successful career path.