Finding jobs a big concern among grads

TN50 dialogue highlights standardising language medium for Science and Maths

By JOASH EE DE SILVA and CLARISSA CHUNG
newsdesk@thestar.com.my

GAMBANG: Job opportunities and standardising the language medium for Science and Mathematics were among the main concerns of students at the Transformasi Nasional 50 (TN50) dialogue here.

Students said there was not only a lack of job opportunities, but also jobs in their field of study after they graduate.

Some also wanted the language used for Science and Mathematics to be standardised.

"When we study Science and Mathematics, we have to make a huge transition from Malay to English when we go from secondary school to university," said one student during the dialogue at the Universiti Malaysia Pahang (UMP) Campus here yesterday.

Several students also hoped that it would be compulsory for students to learn both Mandarin and Tamil.

Higher Education Minister Datuk Seri Idris Jusoh, who was one of the moderators, said he agreed with that.

"Unity among students is something the Government encourages as it builds a nation that is advanced, united, fair and has strong humanitarian values, and these are good ideas for TN50," Idris said.

Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin, another moderator, said economic growth was necessary to create more job opportunities.

In Kuala Lumpur, Khairy said after engaging with nearly two million young people and collecting about 80,000 aspirations over 11 months, there were six big clusters into which the TN50 aspirations have been grouped.

They are being globally competitive, united, sustainable, fair, accountable and compassionate, Khairy said at a TN50 dialogue session with about 600 people from Khazanah Nasional and its affiliate organisations.

He said some of the aspirations under these clusters include encouraging research and innovation, social justice, and sustainable economic development.

"These are aspirations that resonate with young Malaysians, and my hope is that you will be invested in this," he told the attendees.

Khairy said the six clusters will be the basis of the Youth Aspiration Report, which will be launched in January next year.

Khazanah Nasional Berhad managing director Tan Sri Azman Mokhtar said Khazanah Nasional supports the TN50 project, citing the Taman Tugu project and Yayasan Hasnah as contributions to national development.

Mission 2050: Khairy (centre) and Khazanah Nasional’s Azman (on Khairy’s right) posing for a picture after the TN50 dialogue session. — Bernama