

Business

New Hoong Fatt seeks emphasis on TVET programmes in Budget

KUCHING: Automotive parts manufacturer, New Hoong Fatt Holdings Bhd (New Hoong Fatt) is urging the government to continue its efforts on enhancing Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET) programmes; especially for the automotive industry in the upcoming 2019 Budget.

The automotive industry is a key component of the Malaysian economy. According to the Malaysian Automotive Institute, in 2017, the automotive industry, which comprised 27 vehicle manufacturers and 641 component manufacturers contributed four per cent to Malaysia's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Total export value of automotive components has been trending upwards every year and stood at RM11.6 billion in 2017.

NHF's managing director, Chin Jit Sin said, "We look forward to the Government's continued support towards implementing TVET programme and to raise the awareness of these programme among Malaysian youths.

"There is an urgent need to educate and encourage the younger generation to pursue technical and vocational skills as a rewarding career path. These skills are highly sought after amongst many manufacturers in Malaysia, including New Hoong Fatt."

"One key area is to enhance the TVET programme by ensuring the curriculum matches the relevant market needs of industry players. This can be done by engaging with industry players to fill the skills gap between new graduates and employers. This will also effectively reduce youth unemployment, which stood at a record high of 10.8 per cent in 2017.

"Additionally, by continuing Malaysia's focus on upgrading the technical skills and capabilities of the automotive industry's workforce and along with equipping the workforce with the latest up-to-date technological advancements, Malaysia has the potential of becoming a significant competitive automotive player in the South East Asian region, and even globally.

"Moreover, we should also enter into technology transfer collaborations with foreign players. Our up skilled labour force coupled with a friendly business environment will make Malaysia an even more attractive destination for foreign investment into high productivity and high technology activities, thus raising our living standards and bringing us closer to reaching our goal of a high-income nation."

NHF has been a strong advocate of building up its Malaysian workforce and has been participating in the Malaysian Meister programme (meaning Master Craftsman) since 2015.

The two-year programme is a collaborative effort between Selangor Human Resource Development Centre (SHRDC), the Federation of Malaysian Skills Development Centre (FMSSDC), Malaysian-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MGCCI) and HWK Aachen, a leading vocational training centre in Germany.

The programme is aimed at developing industry specific skills such as precision machining and mechatronics. The first batch of graduates have started working at NHF as full-time employees.

<http://www.theborneopost.com/2018/10/26/new-hoong-fatt-seeks-emphasis-on-tvet-programmes-in-budget/>