

25,000 jobs in rail industry

Govt aims to turn rail transportation into national main mode of travel

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SEREMBAN: There are some 25,000 jobs waiting for those keen to pursue careers in the rail industry including the maintenance, repair and overhaul (MRO) sector, says Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi.

The starting salaries for jobs in this high demand sector averaged about RM3,000 and it also offers a bright career path, added the Deputy Prime Minister.

Although students can now be trained locally, some are still sent abroad to Australia for exposure and experience, he added.

The country's Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) sector is no longer focused on conventional and traditional programmes but is now more high-skill focused.

Citing examples, the government, he said, has made strategic investments in the MRT, LRT, RTS Link and ECRL services as it was committed to turn rail transportation into the national main mode of travel.

"The target is to have 40% rail travel by 2030. I am confident this will be achieved," he said, adding that the demand for workers in the rail MRO would further increase if the Singapore-Kuala Lumpur High Speed Rail project



In the driver's seat: Ahmad Zahid (seated) checking out the control panel of a commuter train after the handback ceremony in Seremban, Negri Sembilan. — Bernama

gets the go-ahead.

In July, Transport Minister Anthony Loke had said the government would make a final decision by the end of this year on whether to proceed with the HSR project after weighing proposals from a narrowing list of private consortiums.

The HSR project aims to slash travel time between Malaysia's capital, Kuala Lumpur, and Singapore from around four hours by road to just 90 minutes by rail.

Earlier, Ahmad Zahid witnessed the handback ceremony of the third SCS 92 Class train sets restored under the MRO project

undertaken by M Rail Technics Sdn Bhd (Railtec).

Railtec was set up in 2021 as a joint venture company between Destini Bhd and Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd to provide comprehensive MRO services in the rail industry.

It is the first company in Malaysia to undertake Level 4 MRO services.

This advanced certification enables Destini to perform extensive overhauls and major repairs of rolling stock and infrastructure at specialised facilities.

He had also witnessed the signing of a collaboration between Railtec and UniKL to train stu-

dents in the field.

Ahmad Zahid said the country does not only need good rail infrastructure as equally important was continuous maintenance.

He said after having succeeded in creating a strong rail ecosystem and strengthening the MRO industry, the next important step was investment in human capital development.

"This initiative will produce highly skilled workforce or TVET experts who are not only able to meet the technical needs of the rail industry, but also play a role as the main driver in achieving the excellence of this sector," he added.

Over 200,000 barred from going overseas, says LHDN

PUTRAJAYA: A total of 203,123 individuals and companies have been slapped with travel restrictions as of Nov 30, says the Inland Revenue Board (LHDN).

The number included 175,656 individuals with arrears under Section 104 of the Income Tax Act (ACP) 1967, as well as 12,205 individuals with tax arrears under Section 22 of the Real Property Gains Tax Act (ACKHT) 1976.

"LHDN is empowered to prevent any individual from leaving Malaysia if they or their companies have unpaid tax arrears to the government.

"The travel restriction is the last action that can be imposed if the taxpayer still fails to pay the remaining outstanding tax (individuals and companies) after various reminders and notices have been issued," said a LHDN statement, Bernama reported.

The action of restricting travel abroad against any party is not aimed at denying them their rights, but the action is an effort to enforce the existing tax law on taxpayers who fail to settle tax arrears, it said.

"LHDN will like to advise all taxpayers who wish to travel abroad to check the status of their tax arrears through the MyTax portal which can be accessed at <https://mytax.hasil.gov.my/>.