

Teacher shortage addressed through strategic reforms

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BANGI: Strategic reforms introduced through collaboration between the Education Ministry and the Education Service Commission have successfully addressed the

long-standing issue of teacher shortage in Malaysia.

Education Minister Fadhlina Sidek said the ministry remains committed to tackling the issue through various mechanisms, particularly by deploying qualified teachers who meet the specific needs of students.

"Encouragingly, we are now

seeing a significant increase in applications to the Institut Pendidikan Guru Malaysia (IPGM), reflecting renewed interest and trust in the teaching profession.

"I would also like to congratulate our future educators. The teacher trainee allowance has been increased, reflecting the

government's deep understanding of the financial needs of our student teachers, particularly those studying at IPGM," she said during the 15th IPGM convocation ceremony at the Bangi Convention Centre yesterday. The ceremony was held for 5,390 graduates who successfully completed their teaching degree programme.

The centralised convocation recognised graduates of the Bachelor of Teaching (June 2021 intake) from 28 IPGM campuses nationwide, including from the English Language Teaching Centre.

Fadhlina added that through the Teacher Book Voucher initiative, the ministry seeks to empower educators by encouraging continuous reading and knowledge enhancement.

"This year, a total of 430,000 educators will benefit from RM100 book vouchers, with the redemption period running from now until Sept 30.

"The initiative represents a meaningful step in fostering lifelong learning among educators and aims to strengthen the culture of reading," she said.

Fadhlina also noted that entry pathways into IPGM have now been expanded to include students with STPM, Sijil Tinggi Agama Malaysia and Tahfiz Ulul Albab backgrounds.

"Being a teacher is not easy. Every educator must ignite and sustain a genuine passion for the teaching profession," she added.



Fadhlina at the IPGM convocation ceremony yesterday in which more than 5,000 graduates received their credentials in the teaching degree programme. – **ADAM AMIR HAMZAH/THESUN**