

27/08/1997

One good deed Soros did for us

Wan Ee Lin

YOU know the good deed billionaire trader George Soros did? In case you were one of those abducted by aliens last month and you are now going "Soros who?", allow me to explain. Soros is the man Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad named as the culprit behind the volatile movement of the ringgit in the currency market.

Anyway, one good thing arising from this is that Soros has succeeded in hammering some "ringgit-sense" into Malaysians (an achievement, considering that is what the Government tried to do, albeit unsuccessfully, in the previous Budget).

I have drawn up a comprehensive plan to "combat" Soros' actions and to prevent another recession here.

Now, don't start laughing and saying "how is a 16-going-on-17-year-old going to prevent a recession in the country?" Instead, why don't you follow my ideas so that we can prevent a major inflation in Malaysia.

* Buy Malaysian first. You don't need Dolce & Gabbana, Nike and Versace clothes to look good. What matters most is whether you feel good about yourself.

* Do not spend more than your allowance. Yes, some of you do own supplementary credit cards but it doesn't mean that you can spend freely just because you're not paying the bill.

* Return your mobile phones to the phone company (same goes for the credit card). There are enough public phones and besides, have you noticed there's always no line if you have to make an emergency call?

* Why drive if you can take a bus.

* Save part of your allowance in the bank. You don't have to spend every sen you get.

* Persuade your girlfriend/boyfriend that going to Lake Gardens is better than going to the Boyzone concert. This is not called kiasu, it is being PRACTICAL.

* Be a "Malaysian" maid on weekends. Then, we won't have to pay so much money to foreign workers.

* Save on phone bills. Contrary to what you think, Telekom Malaysia will not go bankrupt if you stop making unnecessary phone calls.

* Switch off the fan/light when not in use. Tenaga Nasional made a huge pre-tax profit last year.

Buy YouthQuake instead of some foreign youth publication. It is more Malaysian and you save on airfreight charges.

I grew up during the 1986-89 economy slump and I can tell you that it's no fun.

Don't say that the country's economy is none of your business; it concerns you as long as you are a Malaysian. Rich or poor, young or old, we must all play our part to prevent inflation.

* The writer is a member of Writers' Bloc II.

(END)