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Anwar: Enough jobs for everyone

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Foreign investor confidence in Malaysia will not be affected by the retrenchment of workers, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He said Malaysia was one country in the region that posted full-employment and anyone unemployed could get a job provided they were not choosy.

Speaking to reporters at his Hari Raya open house for VIPs at his official residence, Anwar said there was a shortage of 60,000 workers in the plantation sector and 40,000 in the manufacturing sector and that was why it was necessary for companies which wanted to retrench workers to serve notice for the unemployed to be re-employed elsewhere.

"I do not think this will be a problem now because Malaysia not only has full employment but suffers from a shortage of workers. So we have directed that any company that has a problem to give notice to both the worker and the Government so the necessary adjustments can be made," he said.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government will take action against employers who retrench workers without giving them prior notice.

Dr Mahathir said the number of workers retrenched in Malaysia was not as high as in other countries.

On Monday, Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said he had received complaints against the management of two factories, one in Ipoh and the other in Sabah, for retrenching workers without due notice.

Lim had earlier this month said that effective next month, employers who want to retrench their workers will be required to report to the Director-General of Labour at least one month before embarking on the exercise. Those who breached the ruling could be charged and fined up to RM2,000 for each offence.

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