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Tripartite meeting on retrenchment next week

KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The Human Resources Ministry will hold a meeting with workers' representatives and employers next week to discuss the issue of retrenchment.

Its minister, Datuk Lim Ah Lek, said the tripartite meeting, to be called Retrenchment Watch, would be the first of its kind to be held as the people need to be told of the Government's efforts to address the issue.

"The Malaysian Trades Union Congress and the Malaysian Employers Federation will nominate five representatives each to the meeting.

"In this forum, we will discuss matters pertaining to retrenchments, new job opportunities and the labour market trend," he told reporters at his office.

He said officials from the Labour, Industrial Relations and Manpower departments would also be present.

Previously, Lim said, the matter was handled by the Labour Department alone.

"We want to hold the meeting to ask workers' representatives not to listen to rumours and advise them on what to do if there are retrenchments.

"We also hope to remind employers not to take advantage of the economic problems faced by the country to retrench workers as they wish," he said.

Lim said Malaysians should be aware that there is plenty of job opportunities in the country and if they are retrenched, they should not be choosy when applying for other jobs.

"Even the Prime Minister (Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad) has given the assurance that there are many jobs available and retrenchments are isolated.

"We have also made it compulsory for employers to give notice to the Labour Department and their workers if they plan to retrench them."

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