

31/10/1999

Campaign against unethical retrenchment

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - A signature campaign has been launched to urge the Government to amend the Employment Act to allow for better protection of workers against retrenchment by unethical employers.

The campaign, organised by the Subang Jaya Town Centre branch of MIC, aims to collect one million signatures.

They will be sent to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

The branch's consumer arbitration, advocacy, redress and service centre legal adviser, Dr Jacob George, said they wanted the Government to act against employers who retrenched without justification.

He claimed that there were many companies which had laid off workers despite making profits.

In some cases, he said the management had retrenched certain workers because of personal vendettas. The workers were powerless in some instances because they were not union members.

In other cases, the companies controlled the "union-like" organisations through welfare committees chaired by management "cronies", he added.

"This despicable behaviour must receive the harshest response from the Government which safeguards the workers' interests."

(END)