

Spend wisely, say unions

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Don't be choosy job-seekers told

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The Labour Department should activate employment exchange offices throughout the country to monitor terminations and help retrenched workers find jobs

Rajasekaran said a report released by the Economic Planning Unit last Friday said worker lay offs last month totalling 1 411 up 30 /

Cuepacs president N Siva Subramaniam said the government must explain the measures thoroughly to the people if they are to participate actively

The message should not be seen as instilling fear among the people so as to reduce their spending

Instead they should be encouraged to spend more Siva added

He said one step can be for the government to implement more income generating measures thus enabling the

people to have more spending power

The measures should carried out in such a way that they do not have an adverse affect on the lower income group he said

Fomca deputy president N Marimuthu said the government should come up with measures to boost the employment rate as well as ensure that its spending is prudent

Job seekers should not be choosy he said

The government should concentrate on giving the economic sustainability of small and medium scale industries (SMIs) a boost

Marimuthu also said the government should concentrate on rural agricultural programmes to reduce the high food import bill

He said consumers should cut costs by recycling and reusing whatever items that are possible

Measures should
allay people's fears
on slowdown

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PETALING JAYA Mon Trade unionists and consumers have a wish - that prudent government expenditure and wise spending by the people form the basis of measures to soften the impact of a US economic slowdown

The MTUC Cuepacs - the umbrella union for civil servants - and Federation of Malaysian Consumer Associations (Fomca) feel that measures which the prime minister will announce should allay the people's fears

The MTUC also says it should be made very clear that local workers get priority for employment over foreigners

The economic measures Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will unveil tomorrow will according to Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin protect the country from the worldwide slump brought on by the US slowdown

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Daim said yesterday that the measures should spur a higher rate of domestic spending and may include an adjustment to the interest rates

Malayan Banking Bhd the country's largest bank has already cut interest rates paying between 3 5 / and 4 1 / for six to 11 month deposits

MTUC secretary general G Raja sekaran said government must immediately stop approving work permits for foreign workers especially in the manufacturing sector where the downturn is expected sooner than later

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