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Good response to training schemes

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Unemployed graduates and school-leavers have inundated co-ordinating agencies with phone calls and applications for places in nine schemes offering them skills training and higher education.

Two of the schemes being co-ordinated by the Human Resources Corporation Bhd have seen over a hundred unemployed graduates registering for application forms.

A check with the agency also showed that hundreds more had called to inquire about the scheme for retrenched workers and school-leavers who had been unemployed for three years as well as the training scheme in ICT and languages.

The schemes are part of a RM4.3 billion stimulus package announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month to cushion the impact of an imminent global economic slowdown.

There are nine schemes in all grouped under two major programmes.

The first, with two schemes, is aimed at upgrading skills.

The second programme is aimed at unemployed graduates and focuses on higher education as well as practical experience through attachment plans.

Two schemes under the co-ordination of the Economic Planning Unit's Human Resource Section have also received good response with 30 applications each.

Many applications and enquiries to the EPU had also been made via the Internet.

The schemes involve attachment as research assistants with government departments and attachment and training with private professional firms.

Bank Pertanian Planning and Development Division senior manager Abdul Rahman Rashid said the scheme to develop commercial agriculture entrepreneurs received between 10 and 15 applications daily.

He said the bank, the co-ordinating agency for the scheme, also received at least six calls daily from unemployed graduates who had expressed interest.

He said due to the encouraging response, the bank would be sending out application forms to its branches nationwide next week.

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