

15/05/2001

Malacca to assist industries

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MALACCA, through its State Development Corporation has formed an action committee to monitor industries based in the State.

It will specifically handle potential problems arising from the economic slowdown in the United States and Japan.

State Science, Technology and Industrial Development committee chairman Datuk Ahmad Hamzah, who is chairing the committee, said it was formed last month.

"The function of this committee is to assist industries on the problems they are facing, be it retrenchment of workers, a slowdown or environmental requirements.

"In this committee, we hope to solve the factories' problems by sitting down and finding alternatives," he said at a Press conference in Malacca yesterday.

The Press conference was to highlight a special one-day seminar for small- and medium-sized industries on alternative financing resources.

Ahmad said the committee would act to help retrenched workers find alternative jobs.

The committee would hold meetings on an impromptu basis.

Besides the SDC, other committee members include representatives from MIDA, the State Labour Department and the Industrial Relations Department.

Ahmad said the problems faced by factories here could be classified under four categories.

They are retrenchment, slowdown, closure and cutting down operations.

He added that the closure of factories or workers' retrenchment in the State was still under control.

Ahmad also congratulated Infineon Technologies Sdn Bhd for receiving an award in recognition of its efforts to train its workers to be part of the k-economy from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday.

"I hope more companies would emulate Infineon Technologies' achievement," he said.

On the seminar, he said it was being held to give opportunities for SMIs to get further information on finding alternative sources of financing, be it from the commercial banks or the small- and medium-sized industrial development fund.

"The seminar is organised in accordance to the proposed Multiple Funding for SMI Nationwide Workshop 2001 scheduled to be held in June," he said.