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Fong-Jobless

MINISTRY ANNOUNCES TWO SCHEMES TO HELP JOBLESS

PUTRAJAYA, Oct 3 (Bernama) -- Two schemes, one to train retrenched workers and another for still unemployed graduates will be launched soon using the RM267-million allocation announced by the government last week.

SPM-holders still unemployed three years upon leaving school would also benefit from the first scheme, the Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn disclosed at a media conference here today.

"We will contact affected employers and relevant working agencies to identify them and to offer our assistance as soon as possible," he said.

Fong said of the total quantum, RM117 million has been set aside for the first scheme which offers a RM500 monthly allowance for full-time trainees and RM300 for part-time participants.

Under the second scheme, jobless diploma and degree-holders would be trained in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and language and get RM500 in monthly allowance.

"The training will be provided by both private and government sectors," he said.

When asked on the types of training available for retrenched workers, Fong said: "We will sit with employers and training providers to decide the types of training but basically it will depend on the market."

Fong said he expected about 20,000 jobless people to participate in both schemes.

On the current unemployment situation, Fong said there were reportedly 25,000 jobless Malaysians during the January-August period this year and the number could rise to 28,000 in September.

The ministry has however received feedback that the number of job vacancies totalling 90,000 far exceeded the number of unemployed people, he said.

The vacancies were mostly in the electronic sector, he said.

Last week, the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Finance Minister, announced a RM4.3-billion economic stimulus package in anticipation of negative impact arising from a global economic slowdown.

The package include a RM150-million allocation to help still jobless fresh graduates.

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