

Be *resourceful*, *jobless grads told*

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Mahadir: Govt doing all it can to help

By **HARIATI AZIZAN**

KUALA LUMPUR: Graduates need to be positive and resourceful to survive the current sluggish employment market, said Parliamentary Secretary to the Education Ministry, Datuk Mahadzir Mohd Khir.

"The Government is doing all it can to help graduates who face difficulties in finding employment but they have to help themselves as well.

"In addition to having inappropriate degrees, many are choosy and refuse to settle for lower-paying jobs. There

are others who send in only one application and expect the job to fall on their lap," he said.

Quoting the Government's unemployed graduates scheme as an example, he said the pay under the programme might be "a pittance" but the experience will give graduates the exposure they needed.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohammad said he was disheartened that 94% of unemployed graduates in the scheme were Malays.

A total of 24,728 of the 40,000 unemployed graduates

have registered under the scheme.

"The special committee set up by the Cabinet to address the issue is studying the problem," he said.

Established in early April, the Cabinet committee comprises Education Minister Tan Sri Musa Mohammad, Human Resources Minister Datuk Fong Chan Onn, International Trade and Industry Minister Datuk Seri Rafidah Aziz, Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Hishamuddin Hussein and Entrepreneur Development Minister Datuk Seri Mohammad Nazri Abdul Aziz.