

**MALAYSIA: UNEMPLOYMENT RATE NOT ALARMING – DEPUTY
MINISTER MAZNAH
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ALOR SETAR, Malaysia Nov 13 (NNN-Bernama) - The government has made various efforts to overcome unemployment, especially among graduates in the country, although the present unemployment rate is not alarming.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Maznah Mazlan said the unemployment rate of 3.2 percent was acceptable as a rate of below four per cent was considered normal.

"Unemployment which stood at 3.1 percent in the last quarter has risen to 3.2 percent as new graduates enter the market. During the 2008-2009 economic crisis, it rose to nearly 4 percent but government initiatives brought it down with one year.

"The United States, Germany and Australia have double digit (unemployment rate), " she told reporters after a luncheon talk between federal and state government senior officers and chief executive officers of multinational corporations and government-linked companies here today.

The luncheon talk was launched by Deputy Minister of International Trade and Industry Mukhriz Tun Mahathir.

Maznah said several programmes were lined-up by the government, government linked companies and the private sector in an effort to reduce the unemployment rate.

"The government via the Manpower Department has created a portal (JobsMalaysia.gov.my) where jobseekers and employers can register the jobs available.

"We have already placed 170,000 jobseekers including 52,000 graduates in the first ten months of this year," she added. --NNN-BERNAMA

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