

New Covid-19 infection wave the main concern — Malaysian Employers Federation

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KUALA LUMPUR (Nov 2): Another wave of Covid-19 infections in Malaysia appears to be the main concern for employers in the country at a time when pandemic-driven movement restrictions are less stringent now to support the rejuvenation of the nation's economy.

Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) executive director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan said: "The main worry is of course another wave of infections, especially after the coming festive seasons and

holidays.

"If we are able to keep down the number of infections, then the confidence level will come back," Shamsuddin said on Tuesday (Nov 2) at UOB Kay Hian Wealth Advisors' public policy economy webinar.

Shamsuddin was one of the webinar's six guest speakers, which included Member of Parliament for Damansara Tony Pua, University of Malaya's Asia Europe Institute's distinguished professor of economics Datuk Dr Rajah Rasiah and former finance minister II Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

Rajah said a concern he had is whether the Malaysian government's proposed Budget 2022 had taken into account the potential emergence of another variant of the virus which causes Covid-19 and the possibility of another surge in the number of new cases.

"I'm not sure if we have the capacity to recalibrate the budget," he said.

"If we are in full control of the [Covid-19] situation and if current trends [of cases] are anything to go by, I believe the right measures can help [sustain the economic recovery]," he said.