

Fewer likely to be retrenched

KUALA LUMPUR: More than 100,000 Malaysians have been retrenched since January, but the government does not think that the number will go up.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Senator Datuk Maznah Mazlan said the number included those who quit on voluntary separation schemes (VSS).

Speaking after launching the Malaysian Employers Federation's (MEF) book titled *Guide to Redundancy & Retrenchment* yesterday, Maznah said the total number of foreign workers who had been retrenched and offered VSS was 8,077.

Earlier in her speech, she asked the

MEF to support the proposals that maternity leave be extended to 84 days or 120 days, from the current 60 days, as recommended by the International Labour Organisation.

She also asked employers to consider setting up nurseries at their workplace and giving time off to mothers to breast-feed their child.

MEF president Datuk Azman Shah Harun said there was an urgent need to certify Malaysian employees based on skills. He added that about 150,000 Malaysians joined the labour force at the lowest level yearly without any skills certificate.