

Employment sector will remain static, says MTUC

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PETALING JAYA: The job market in Malaysia this year is expected to remain weak as employers stay cautious about the economy.

Malaysian Trades Union Congress general secretary G. Rajasekaran said he did not see the employment sector getting any better, basing it on a survey conducted with private sector companies which were still uncertain of their own prospects.

"The employment sector won't fluctuate. It will remain static. That is also considered good."

He said although the economy was improving, the employment sector was unlikely to experience a turnaround.

On the average, more than 300,000 Malaysians entered the labour market annually and this figure was likely to be same this year.

"That is not a good thing. Jobs need to be created in huge numbers."

Malaysian Employers Federation executive secretary Samsuddin Bardan said the unemployment level this year would still be below four per cent, which technically meant zero unemployment.

Despite this, he believed the challenge would come from the creation of quality jobs for graduates and those in the management and executive levels.

"The capacity of the private sector to create such jobs this year would be limited.

"However, jobs are available



G. Rajasekaran says more jobs need to be created

at the lower rung," he said, adding that locals were still not attracted to such jobs.

"The ability of our companies to attract (lower-rung job-



Samsuddin Bardan says jobs are available at the lower rung

seekers) is still not there."

Samsuddin also said the coming into effect of several free trade agreements this year would also not result in

immediate benefit to the employment sector.

"We could probably see the benefits in the long term," Samsuddin said

However, Rajasekaran felt that with the FTAs, there would hardly be any noticeable impact on the local job market.

"It's more to their (the respective countries) advantage as it involves reducing tariff and opening up the local market for their products."

Regional FTAs such as Asean-China, Asean-Korea and Asean-Japan have already been enforced, and Asean-India and Asean-Australia/New Zealand came into force this month.

Malaysia has also concluded bilateral FTAs with Japan, Pakistan and New Zealand.