

Job vacancies but firms not hiring locals

Applicants in manufacturing sector think it's a ploy to get foreign workers

SEREMBAN: Employers, particularly those in the manufacturing sector, are advertising vacancies but not hiring, claim job seekers and the MTUC.

They said this was a ploy to hoodwink authorities into believing that they were unable to get locals to fill the vacancies.

They would then use this to justify their case to get foreign workers.

Several individuals contacted *The Star* to complain about such practices.

S. Ajay, who was a quality controller at a factory in the Senawang Industrial Area but retrenched three months ago, said he had not been able to secure a job although he had several years' experience.

"It is strange that I am not considered although I agreed to a lower salary interview after interview," he said.

However, when he drove past some of the companies where he had gone for interviews, vacancy signs were still displayed outside the premises.

"When I called the managers and asked them why there were still vacancies, they told me that they could not find someone suitable.

"Are they telling me that foreign workers are better than locals?" he said.

Another caller, who only wished to be known as James and who had been working as a quality assurance supervisor in a factory in Nilai, said he also could not get a job despite many openings in the factories there.

"A friend working in a plant where I went for

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G. RAJASEKARAN,

an interview told me that the company has been promoting its foreign workers from operators to quality assurance supervisors," he said.

When he called the management, James said he was told that they did not have any record of his application.

"They just refused to entertain me," said James, who has been unemployed since January.

MTUC secretary-general G. Rajasekaran said the congress was aware of this and urged complainants to contact him directly.

"The problem is that the authorities cannot keep track of this as no one makes reports.

"Those who feel they have been duped by such companies must report so action could be taken against them," he said.

Rajasekaran said he would raise the matter during the national retrenchment council meeting at the Human Resources Ministry today.