

None have closed shop so far: FSM

Larry Ralon

KOTA KINABALU: Members of the Federation of Sabah Manufacturers (FSM) are largely coping with the economic downturn but some have downsized operations including retrenching their workers.

FSM President, Datuk Wong Ken Thau, considered the more than 200 manufacturing companies can count themselves fortunate because most are still concentrating on production for the domestic market.

Wong was speaking after chairing the federation's 22nd AGM held at Wisma FSM in Kota Kinabalu Industrial Park (KKIP) in Menggatal here Saturday.

Wong, who retained his post together with the rest of the incumbents, said the domestic market was not too badly affected (by the financial crisis) because the demand was still there.

"So far none (the federation members) has declared they are going to close shop instantly (because of the global financial crisis)... those downsizing their business operations which included retrenchment are mostly on the front level," he said.

Wong also disclosed the federation's plan to embark on providing training for the existing and future young local entrepreneurs to encourage more people to venture into entrepreneurship.

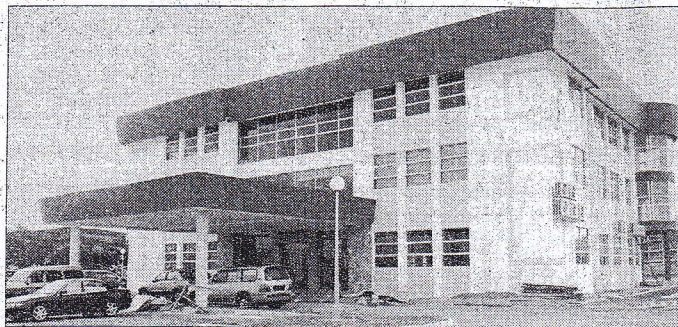
"Now that our new building is already completed and will be opened in August we will have more space available for us to provide the training for existing and future young entrepreneurs... we want to encourage more younger people to get involved in the activity," he said.

He said they will not only provide training for the participants but will see to it that they (participants) get started.

"Because it will defeat the purpose of providing training if the person we train does not progress or achieve anything after that, like in some of the training activities we observed where the participants still remained in the same condition even after they underwent training," he said.

Wong said they plan to introduce the training programme in the hope of creating or increasing 'business tycoons' in Sabah.

This is also part of the new forward plan of the federation, he said,



The new Wisma FSM building in KKIP.

adding they will also from now get involved proactively in raising whatever issues involving its members as well as give apt recommendations to the government.

Meanwhile, FSM Deputy President Mohd Basri Gafar is calling for more participation from its members and the public in the FSM Golf Challenge 2009 to be held at Dalit Bay Golf & Country Club in Tuaran on July 4. The tourney is meant to raise RM20,000 for its proposed Wisma FSM Building Fund. Mohd Basri, who is also the organising chairman, said thus far 80 golfers have confirmed participation.

"Our target is 120 golfers and thus we still need another 40 golfers... we hope the public and our members will help us," he said, adding those have yet register can still do so until July 1.

A 3.0L Isuzu D-Max Super Commonrail will be up for grabs as a hole-in-one prize. Other prizes include flight tickets to Taipei and Singapore, he said, adding the vehicle is provided by Fook Loi, while the flight tickets by Malaysia Airlines (MAS) and Oriental Travel.

For more information contact him at 019-8212051, Norbert Su (019-8811484), Mary Ling (018-8522085), Richard Lim (019-8807648), Alex Yee (012-8287788) or Ms Chiu/Mimie (FSM Secretariat).

Couple cheat death



A COUPLE from Kg Pirasan, Kota Belud cheated death when the one-and-a-half tonne lorry laden with noodles they were travelling burst into flames near Towering in Penampang, Kota Kinabalu at 8pm Saturday.

Abdull Ajamain, 45, quickly pulled the lorry to the roadside when he saw sparks on the steering wheel.

After alighting from the lorry and pulling the handbrake, Abdull said the lorry continued to move forward and plunged into the drain near the roadside before it burst into flames.

Penampang firefighters managed to control the fire in a few minutes and finally put it out. Lance Corporal Sukor was at the scene to investigate the case. — Jimmy Goh

Help for Bumi firms based on meritocracy

From Page One

Chinese who had economic opportunities but entrepreneurs, Naitib said they must think

To do for

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