

So Yuh Lost Yuh Job, Eh?

Yuh job gawn like 'Sammy mout'- keep health and education plans.

That's the advice from Minister of Labour and Social Security, Parnell Charles. The Ministers is pushing workers whose positions have been made redundant to retain their health and education plans for the next 24 months to cushion the impact from the ongoing international financial meltdown.

Senior officials in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security will be meeting tomorrow to discuss this and other proposals aimed at assisting the large number of workers expected to lose their jobs in coming months.

Charles said that after the meeting, he hoped to forward the proposals to a ministry committee to consult with employers and unions to discuss redundancies. "We can't stand by and twist our fingers," he said.

Charles revealed that the ministry was aware of a number of redundancies that might occur this year in the wake of a global economic slowdown which has started to affect firms here.

Danger

He noted, however, that there was a danger that workers could spend redundancy funds unwisely, leaving them at risk if they are unable to find employment soon after.

The minister said that retention on company health or education plans would require that the new jobless to make contributions from payouts. "I am looking with quite an optimistic eye that this thing is going to turn around," Charles said. He suggested that he expected the the economy to enter recovery mode by 2011.

Labour ministry officials will also be proposing that Jamaicans who lose their jobs be invited to make contact with the Ministry of Industry, Investment and Commerce, which would assist them in setting up small businesses.

Charles said that loans would be made available for persons whose redundancy payouts were insufficient to finance business start-ups. Source: gleanerjm.com