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We are tightening our belts till there are no notches left



December 21, 2015 @ 11:00am

IN the last few months, Malaysians are feeling less secure and unwanted in our land. For many of us, this is the land, the only land where we were born, grew up in and would, most likely take our last breath.

Many jobs these days are catered more to foreign workers and expatriates. They are in high demand compared to local citizens.

There will always be an excuse why a local citizen is not hired. We demand higher pay; we are choosy with our jobs; we are not willing to work on DDD (dirty, dangerous and demeaning) jobs; we have poor command of English; etc. Any excuse to not hire a local worker. Foreign workers are brought in daily and their numbers are making us feel unsafe.

The cost of living has risen to alarming heights. Many now cannot even consider buying a house, especially in urban and suburban areas, and even rental is getting astronomical.

Many, too, can no longer afford to maintain private vehicles, as the cost of driving becomes more exorbitant with the increase in toll, reduction in petrol subsidies and lower ringgit causing increased cost in spare parts, putting huge pressure on families and households.

With the Goods and Services Tax came increases in various segments and sectors, causing a price hike in food products and produce, too.

At the same time, salaries and remunerations remain low to maintain our competitiveness, we are told. Many more will face unemployment next year as downsizing and rightsizing become the order of the day. The job market is expected to be tight, especially with many fresh graduates flooding the market and seeking jobs.

What can we do? Where can we go? We are tightening our belts till there are no notches left. We are managing our expenses and finances with the little we have left.

We now have to resort to speaking slowly or, in extreme situations, in sign language to make ourselves understood when we are buying or getting something because local workers are now a minority and a rarity in many establishments.

We use our vehicles at home and, yet, we have to contend with the increase in fares of all forms of public transport.

Needed as if we are not wanted in our own land. Our pleas are not heeded, as again we hear of plans to increase electricity tariff and other tolls as well.

In this time, we are flooded with more foreign workers. We may just become the minority in our land, our home.

in MERAT SHAH RIZAL NOOR IKHSAN, Hulu Kelang, Selangor

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