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Title: Graduating students mustn't exclude SMEs in their job search
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Graduating students, who will be joining the workforce, shouldn't rule out small and medium enterprises in their job search.

That's because SMEs are one of the best places for fresh graduates to get first-hand experience in areas such as marketing, sales, and finance.

This was an observation by Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development Youth and Sports, Mr Teo Ser Luck.

"So SMEs we cannot leave out the SMEs, we cannot leave out the route towards entrepreneurship. In fact one graduate comes out and set up business you create another two three jobs, that itself is an alternative that I think some of the more entrepreneurial and creative graduates should consider because they will also help others."

Mr Teo was at the Nanyang Technological University's annual two-day Career Fair which attracted more than 100 employers, the same number as last year.

Public sector participation doubled from 15 to 31, filling the void left by companies from the semi-conductor sector and MNCs that have frozen hiring.

More SMEs and home grown companies have also joined in this year.

One final-year Civil Engineering student, Vimalatulasi was at the fair with an updated resume.

Despite starting out with zero industry experience in an uncertain job market, she's confident of possessing the qualities to help her overcome job anxieties and to secure a job with an SME.

"Hardwork, I mean hardworking, For fresh grad, you should keep asking why is that done, why is this done. You should keep asking questions in order to progress better."

Another final-Year student Leow Bok Wee however is banking on his 6-month internship with the Land Transport Authority to land him his first job.

In the end, it's the certainty of a job in the public service that ranks higher.

"I'll still go for job security. Pay wise especially at this moment I'm not very sure but at the start it should be around 2K plus I think ."

Some 5,000 graduating students are expected to turn up at the career fair.

The available positions are mainly in the engineering, business and administration, as well as in public service.