PERSEKUTUAN MAJIKAN-MAJIKAN MALAYSIA

MALAYSIAN EMPLOYERS FEDERATION (Reg. No: 1357-SELANGOR)

HEAD OFFICE: 3A06 – 3A07, Block A, Pusat Dagangan Phileo Damansara II, No. 15, Jalan 16/11, Seksyen 16, 46350 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia. Tel: 603-7955 7778 | Fax: 603-7955 6808/7955 9008 | E-mail: mef-hq@mef.org.my

MEDIA RELEASE

'Employers need more time to comply with Act 446'

The decision of the Ministry of Human Resources to fully enforce the Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act 1990 beginning today could drive many employers out of business, which would then lead to increased job losses.

MEF President Dato' Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman J.P. said: "While MEF recognises the need to improve the accommodation standards for foreign workers, we seek the compassion of the government to take into account the current situation and to not penalise employer for failing to comply with the Act.

"In complying with the Act, the employers are required to abide by such things as space requirement and minimum thickness of mattress. For example, 1,500 square feet of space could only accommodate a maximum of six foreign workers, and we know that many Malaysians are living in spaces much smaller than this.

"Employers who fail to comply with the Act would be fined RM50,000 per foreign worker. At the same time, many employers are relying on the wage subsidy programme and other government support to survive the pandemic."

More than 30,000 businesses have shut down since the start of Covid-19 pandemic up to September this year, with a majority failing to revive operations after a gradual reopening of the economy since June. As at November 24, about 100,000 employees received retrenchment benefits under the EIS.

"The major issue facing employers at the moment is that of survivability and we hope the government would consider MEF pleas for compassion to the employers during these extremely difficult times," he added

For further information, contact the MEF Secretariat at 03-7955-7778 or fax 03-7955-9008 or email mef-hq@mef.org.my.

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- 379-D, Jalan Hajjah Rehmah, 11600 Jelutong, Penang | **Tel**: 604 659 9236 / 604 659 9909 | **Fax: 6**04 6599 873 | **E-mail:** mefpg@mef.org.my
- No. 17A & 17B Jalan Cantik 6, Taman Pelangi Indah, 81800 Ulu Tiram, Johor | Tel: 607 862 4776 | Fax: 607 862 4773 | E-mail: mefjb@mef.org.my
- B-8 & B-10, First Floor, Jalan Haji Ahmad 3, Sri Pahang Business Centre 25300 Kuantan, Pahang Darul Makmur | Tel: 609 512 4373 | Fax: 609 512 4251 | E-mail: mefktn@mef.org.my
- A-1-3, 1st Floor, Wisma MFCB, No.1, Persiaran Greentown 2, Green Town Business Centre, 30450 Ipoh, Perak | Tel: 605 255 7778 / 605-255 7778 | E-mail: mefip@mef.org.my
- Lot No 95, Jalan Nyiur, 93200 Kuching, Sarawak | **Tel**: 082 247 027 | **Fax:** 082 247 028 | **E-mail:** mefkch@mef.org.my
- Lot No 1, Block A, 3rd Floor, Damai Point, Luyang, 88300 Kota Kinabalu, Sabah | Tel: 088 210 579 | Fax: 088 204 979 | E-mail: mefkk@mef.org.my