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PERSEKUTUAN MAJIKAN-MAJIKAN MALAYSIA

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

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MEDIA RELEASE

MEF supports and thanks YB Datuk Seri M Saravanan, Minister of Human Resources, for proactive efforts to eradicate forced labour practices

PETALING JAYA: MEF President Dato' Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman J.P. expressed MEF support to YB Datuk Seri M Saravanan, Minister of Human Resources to eliminate and eradicate forced labour practices.

“We hope the government can help resolve the matter as soon as possible, and we thank Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan for efforts to help lift the ban in previous cases,” said Dato' Dr Syed Hussain.

He said MEF fully supports efforts to eradicate forced labour practices among employers including the supply chain.

Dato Dr. Syed expressed serious concerns that certain Malaysian exporters have been denied access to foreign markets over allegations of forced labour practices, and has called for immediate intervention by the government.

“Reports that local companies were subject to export ban imposed by the United States Customs and Border Protection Department and the Canadian authorities have widespread implications.

“The Federation, in collaboration with the government, UN agencies and international organisations such as the ILO, are working closely to create awareness among our members on forced labour practices to ensure that such practices be eliminated and eradicated.

“Employers who utilise foreign workers must be made aware of the legal requirements such as limitations on overtime work, compliance with the Employees' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations and Amenities Act 1990, and the National Minimum Wages.

“Among other things, employers must also be aware that withholding of passport of the foreign worker is regarded as an indication of forced labour, ensure that such practices do not occur.

“MEF looks forward to work closely with the Ministry of Human Resources and the UN agencies, particularly the ILO, towards this objective as the issue of foreign worker supply and access to foreign markets are critical for Malaysia's economy during this recovery period.”

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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