

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF HIRING PAROLEES

PETALING JAYA: On June 20, 2024, the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) hosted its second MEF Conversation Series event, titled “Unlock Potential, Hire Parolees.” This initiative aims to promote the hiring of parolees as a valuable labor resource for the private sector. Representatives from Jabatan Penjara Malaysia (JPM), Pertubuhan Keselamatan Sosial (PERKESO), and Ready Set Go Sdn Bhd attended to discuss the parole system, share their experiences, and provide insights into the support systems available for employers.

Approximately 85 member companies participated in the event, which was conducted in a hybrid format, encompassing both manufacturing and non-manufacturing sectors, notably plantation, construction, hospitality, and services. The enthusiastic participation of these companies underscored the potential for hiring parolees, although questions were raised regarding the hiring process, employer incentives, and government support.

MEF President, Datuk Dr. Syed Hussain Syed Husman, P.J.N., J.P., emphasized the importance of social justice, stating, “Social justice is about fairness and providing opportunities for everyone. MEF believes that hiring parolees aligns with the principle of social justice. It is our moral duty, especially as citizens, to support our fellow Malaysians.”

Datuk Dr. Syed Hussain urged society to stop stigmatizing parolees, noting that many of these individuals, shaped by challenging circumstances, deserve a second chance to reintegrate and contribute to society. He acknowledged the government's efforts to assist parolees but stressed the need for corporate sector support, saying, “We need the corporate sector to trust and give these parolees an opportunity.”

Highlighting the potential for success, he shared, “These parolees are Malaysians ready to contribute. They are our people, and if we don’t help them, who will? Despite the negative stereotypes, there are many success stories. I know individuals who have thrived after going through this scheme—they are hardworking and have turned their lives around.”

Datuk Dr. Syed Hussain affirmed MEF’s strong support for the hiring of parolees and committed to advocating for their employment among its members. “Let’s open the doors for these individuals and provide them with the opportunities they deserve,” he urged.

Following the session, several companies expressed interest in exploring the possibility of hiring parolees, signalling a positive outcome from the event.

For further information, please contact the MEF Secretariat at 03-7498 7200 or email mef-hq@mef.org.my.

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