

MEF wants MOHR to handle recruitment, management of foreign workers

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Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman said the mandate should be given to MOHR to act as a one-stop ministry to administer and manage the recruitment of foreign workers under the "One Channel System". - bernama.com

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) has proposed that the recruitment and management of foreign workers including foreign domestic workers be placed under one ministry for efficiency and business efficacy.

MEF president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman said the mandate should be given to the Ministry of Human Resources (MOHR) to act as a one-stop ministry to administer and manage the recruitment of foreign workers under the "One Channel System".

"MOHR can get all the requirements approved instead of cross-ministry involvement which waste too much time on bureaucracy and additional costs. We believe MOHR being the custodian of labour working with employers and unions should be the one-stop Ministry," he said in a statement today.

Syed Hussain said MEF believed that as the regulator on labour in the country and had enough enforcement capacity, MOHR would be able to resolve most of the issues on recruitment and management of foreign workers

"Due to the freeze on recruitment of foreign workers and the inability to replace those whose Temporary Employment Visit Pass (PLKS) expired over the last two years, employers are facing serious shortages of workers. Businesses are losing billions and the longer we wait the more we lose.

"As an example, palm oil plantations face acute shortage of harvesters that continue to result in loss of revenue for planters of more than RM1 billion per month and income to the government due to loss in palm oil yield. The palm oil industry may not be able to compete with that of Malaysia's neighbours by virtue of higher costs of sales and wastage," he said.

Therefore, Syed Hussain said the government should urgently address the shortage of more than 75,000 workers in the plantation sector.

He also claimed that even though the government approved the intake of 32,000 new foreign workers in September 2021, up till now the workers are not yet in Malaysia.

Syed Hussain also said that construction sector in the country is facing a serious shortage of workers causing some major construction projects to fall behind schedule.