



## PEMERKASA provides much-needed lifeline for employers -- MEF



Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman, MEF president

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KUALA LUMPUR, March 18 – The RM20 billion Strategic Programme to Empower the People and Economy (PEMERKASA) initiative by the government has provided employers with a much-needed lifeline, said the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF).

Its president, Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman said employers in the most adversely-affected sectors such as tourism, retail and wholesale should be able to breathe easier with the provision of RM700 million for the extension of the Wage Subsidy Programme (WSP 3.0) for three months.

“The business disruptions due to COVID-19 saw many employers clamouring for support, so the government’s unveiling of the PERMEKASA initiative is indeed a welcome relief.

"We would like to thank the government for providing the necessary assistance under PEMERKASA to revive and revitalise our national economy," he said in a statement today.

Additionally, he said the MEF is also pleased that the Social Security Organisation's (SOCSO) Penjana Kerjaya 2.0 initiative had been enhanced and expanded to include 60,000 temporary and gig workers.

Syed Hussain also lauded the Prihatin Special Grant 3.0 initiative which aims to assist local SMEs and micro-enterprises to resume operations.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said the government has agreed to extend the WSP with an allocation of RM700 million for three more months under PEMERKASA; taking a more targeted approach that is expected to benefit 400,000 workers and 37,000 employers.

He said the government would also expand the scope of the hiring incentives under SOCSO's PenjanaKerjaya 2.0 to include temporary and gig economy jobs.

This includes an allocation of RM300 million which is expected to benefit 60,000 workers, where each employee will receive RM600 a month for a maximum period of six months.

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