

# SCCI members question unutilised RM800 million under HRDF

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KUCHING: Members of the Sarawak Chambers of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) voiced their concerns on the lack of information regarding the Human Resource Development Fund (HRDF) as well as what is going to happen to the RM800 million unutilised funds.

Anne Kung, honorary treasurer of SCCI noted that, “All of us here have very little information about how HRDF utilise the funds. Programmes such as the 1Malaysia Globally Recognised Industry Professional Certificate Programme (1MYGRIP) was something that until recently we didn’t hear about.

“In fact, until we were involved with MEF we were in the dark.”

Kung noted that they would like HRDF to be transparent about how much of the facilities or resources have benefited Sarawakian companies, employers and employees alike as they fear that Sarawakian companies by and large are not big enough to boast a full fledged HRDF department.

“The one per cent that we contribute as employers to the fund, many are unaware that if we do not utilise it after five years are no longer ours. We have just been advised that the unutilised fund after five years which companies can no longer access today is at an estimated RM800 million! Roughly RM200 million annually gets unutilised.

“We believe HRDF is therefore not doing its job in trying to publicize that this money needs to be spent and we would like HRDF to let us know what do they do with the unutilised money.”

According to recent press statements, some of the funds were used to retrain retrenched workers but Kung believes that Sarawak has been bypassed again.

“We believe that the bulk of these programmes are being rolled out in the peninsular and Sarawakian employers, trainers as well as retrenched workers did not even know the existence of these programmes under HRDF.

“As the minister is a Sarawakian, we would like the minister’s whole hearted support in championing this effort to bring more of this services to Sarawak.

“We would also like to know how much annual contributions do they get and out of the amount, how much comes from Sarawak and do they have the statistics how many Sarawakian companies actually go back and tap the money they contributed.”

As the RM800 million is not utilised and now no longer available, Kung poses the question, “who controls the RM800 million as it is not utilised and no longer available to us.”