

MEF: Introduce policy to allow foreign workers to bear recruitment costs

By [Dhesegean Bala Krishnan](#) - March 21, 2022 @ 2:35pm



The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) wants the government to introduce a holistic policy for foreign workers to bear all their recruitment costs by themselves. - NSTP file pic

KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) wants the government to introduce a holistic policy for foreign workers to bear all their recruitment costs by themselves.

MEF president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman also urged the government to review the quarantine and accommodation costs for foreign workers that enter the country.

"The cost of recruiting foreign workers is very expensive. For example, the cost of recruitment of a Bangladeshi worker is about RM20,000 per worker after accounting for the fees paid by the worker to the agents in Bangladesh.

"The cost of recruitment of an Indonesian domestic worker was reported to be about RM20,000 – RM25,000.

"MEF urges the government to negotiate (and set) a maximum ceiling on the charges imposed by recruiting agents at the source country," he said in a statement today.

Syed Hussain also suggested the government to set up quarantine centres outside the Klang Valley and fix maximum ceiling charges to reduce the cost of quarantine.

"Upon arrival, the foreign workers need to be quarantined at quarantine centres situated in the Klang Valley.

"The estimated cost of quarantine is between RM2,000 and RM3,000, including accommodation, food and drinks (three times a day), transportation to the quarantine centres as well as Covid-19 screenings during the quarantine period.

"The accommodation costs for foreign workers also need to be rationalised.

"Employers pay about RM300 to RM400 per month to provide accommodation for each foreign worker, as per the standards specified under Act 446.

"Currently, employers are only allowed to charge RM100 per month for every worker.

"MEF appeals to the government to allow employers to charge the actual costs of providing accommodation to foreign workers," he said.