

## MEF: 6-month grace period for employers to comply with labour laws won't lead to abuse of foreign workers

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Foreign workers seen entering a construction site ahead of working in Kuala Lumpur recently. -NSTP/EFFENDY RASHID

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The six-month grace period for employers to comply with labour laws will not lead to abuse of foreign workers, said Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF).

Its president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman said it was not right for any party to give the impression that employers would abuse foreign workers just because the government decided to grant employers some time to comply with the labour laws.

"We have some world class employers and some great brands. Making statements that employers will abuse the foreign workers due to the six months grace period to comply with labour laws is irresponsible and such statement is not fair to the investors.

"Businesses are trying their level best to get back to normal. Making general statement that foreign workers will be abused does not help anyone. The government, employers and unions are all working together to make Malaysia better," he said in a statement.

Despite facing challenging times due to the Covid-19 and Movement Control Order (MCO), many employers kept their employees with various schemes available, he said.

Syed Hussain was commenting on North-South Initiative director Adrian Pereira's recent remark that the move would open up risks of exploitation.

Home Minister Senator Datuk Seri Saifuddin Nasution Ismail had recently said employers bringing in foreign workers under the new recruitment and quota plan would be given grace period of six months to comply with the requirements for the hiring process.

It will start once the foreign workers are issued with the temporary working visit pass.

The preconditions include adherence to labour laws, qualifying for the foreign worker hiring quota under the Human Resources Ministry and paying minimum wage.