

Report on subsidies for workers in two weeks

KUALA LUMPUR: A report on subsidies for workers affected by the recent oil price increase will be ready in two weeks, said Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Dr Fong Chan Onn.

A few proposals were put up following discussions between the ministry and the Malaysian Employer's Federation and Malaysian Trades Union Congress.

"Mainly, we will review the employees' mileage claims, transport subsistence and subsidies for food consumed at the workplace," said Dr Fong after the launch of the Customer Management Congress.

"However, all of these suggestions will not burden the employers in any way," he said,

adding that the subsidies would be based on the workers' incomes.

"We need to know who are deeply affected by the fuel price increase so that assistance can be given out accordingly."

Dr Fong urged all employers to cooperate in helping their staff.

"Let the workers know we're in this together," he said.

The minister said Malaysia has the potential to be a centre of excellence for contact centre services.

"We have the necessary human resources, technology and customer management expertise to house contact centres.

"Our graduates are also

multi-lingual. With proper training programmes, we can provide high-value customer services that will in turn benefit the economy," he said, adding that the move will create better job opportunities.

Meanwhile, in response to the 800 Bumiputra Class A contractors made redundant due to fewer construction projects, Dr Fong said he was confident the problem could be resolved.

"The past two years saw more emphasis given to improving other infrastructure, such as the transportation system.

"In the Ninth Malaysian Plan (9MP) we will allocate more resources for construction projects," he said.