

Employers asked to 'spread the wealth'

KUALA LUMPUR: Employers will continue to give salary increments and bonuses to their employees this year, given the country's improving economy, said Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) president Jafar Abdul Carrim.

"There is no reason for me to believe that employers won't give increments or bonuses this year, though at the end of the day it is up to them," he said in conjunction with Labour Day.

Jafar said that although the economy was doing reasonably well, some sec-

tors were not facing robust growth.

He hoped the Ninth Malaysia Plan would bring growth to these sectors.

"These are early days and we can't expect sectors such as construction to grow immediately so we would advise employers to be realistic.

"But considering the way the economy is growing, I don't see why employers should withhold their profits.

"In fact, I expect the employers to continue to give increments and bonuses," he said.

Jafar also urged employers who have not given their workers increment to do so as it would help with the recent oil price hike.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Dr Fong Chan Onn called on employers to "spread" their profits to the workers as the economy was improving.

"It is good for bosses to share their profits with their workers," he said.

Members of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress held a gathering at Dataran Merdeka last night to mark

Labour Day.

President Syed Shahir Syed Mohamud told reporters that MTUC hoped to have more dialogues with the Government and employers for the benefit of all parties.

"We can also give our opinions and views on policies carried out by the Government such as the 9MP," he said.

He added that workers would agree to increase their productivity and competitiveness if it would benefit them.