

MEF: Revise stimulus package to help employers more

NATION 

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PETALING JAYA: The Government has been urged to revise its stimulus package to provide more help to employers badly affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Malaysian Employers Federation executive director Datuk Shamsudin Bardan (*pic*) said the RM600 monthly aid each for worker was not enough to help employers keep all their workers.

"The total amount allocated by the Government only accounts for 7% of the total RM27.5bil in monthly salaries paid to workers in the private sector.

"The government needs to inject a 70% subsidy, not a mere 7% if it wants employers to avoid retrenching workers.

"We need to opt for pay cuts to avoid retrenching workers, but if the government insists we pay full salaries, then they should seriously look into providing better incentives.

"Furthermore, under existing rules and regulations, many employers are not eligible to apply for the RM600 aid for each worker.

"We hope the Government will look into it when drawing a stimulus package," he said.

Parti Sosialis Malaysia (PSM) deputy chairman S. Arutchelvan claimed some workers had received notices via email and WhatsApp that they had been retrenched.

"People are very worried about losing their jobs," he said.

He said PSM had on April 1 launched the Covid-19 Workers Complaint Hotline nationwide.

Based on complaints from workers, Arutchelvan said the list of factories allowed to continue operations despite the movement control order (MCO) should be released.

The party received complaints that even factories manufacturing non-essential products were still in operation, he added.

"Some workers have called our hotline to complain that they were being forced to work, although they were not involved in essential sectors," he said.

Arutchelvan said they also received complaints that some "essential" factories did not comply with the directive to ensure only 50% of the workforce was allowed to work at any given time.

"Some also do not follow the recommended sanitisation protocol. All these put workers at risk. We have forwarded the complaints to the Manpower Department and International Trade and Industry Ministry (Miti).

"We received a good response from the Manpower Department," he added.