

MEF wants Safe@Work programme to be extended to all industry sectors

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) hopes the Safe@Work programme implemented by the Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) would be extended to employers in all sectors of industry.

At present, the voluntary programme is only open to the manufacturing sector and its related services, president Datuk Dr Syed Hussain Syed Husman said in a statement today.

The Safe@Work initiative, which is part of the Strategic Programme to Empower the People and Economy (PEMERKASA), enables participating employers to receive an additional tax deduction of up to RM50,000 tax for rental expenses incurred on premises and hostels provided as living accommodation for employees.

Syed Hussain said the Safe@Work programme arrangement would enable employers to continue operations without serious disruptions and at the same time prevent the formation of new COVID-19 clusters.

"The voluntary programme placed workers based on the 'safe work bubble' which isolated close contacts among workers at their accommodation, workplace as well as workers' vehicles," he noted.

He said although the government had decided to allow 100 per cent of employees to be present at the workplace beginning April 1, employers might consider allowing certain employees to work from home based on the nature and requirement of their jobs.

Meanwhile, Syed Hussain welcomed the government's decision to abolish the ruling on the 30 per cent of management staff working in Conditional Movement Control Order areas as this would help struggling employers resuscitate their businesses.

He also urged employers to strictly adhere to the standard operating procedures to prevent and stop the spread of COVID-19. -- Bernama