

More **talks** please: MEF

> Amendments to MACC Act need to be discussed in detail

GEORGE TOWN: Employers are concerned over the lack of consultation between the federal government and the private sector over proposed amendments to the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) Act 2009.

The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) hopes Putrajaya will engage the private sector before amending the Act to include a corporate liability provision.

MEF executive director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan (*pix*) hopes that there will be more discussions on the matter before it is tabled in Parliament next month.

He said there was only one consultation session so far regarding the issue and details are thus hazy on the proposed amendments.

“For us to give a fair comment, it is important for us to

know exactly what they want to provide in the law,” he told a press conference yesterday with MEF president Tan Sri Azman Haron and Chief Minister Lim Guan Eng.

Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Datuk Seri Paul Low had reportedly said companies can be held responsible if their employees commit bribery under the amended Act.

At present, only employees would be charged while companies are not liable.

Shamsuddin said businesses may be affected if foreign investors decided not to invest here if the amendments were too onerous.

He said people might shun management positions and directorships in

companies if there exists a possibility that they may be jailed if the company they represent is found guilty of wrongdoing.

He said countries which had such provisions imposed them on both the public and private sectors, and pointed out the Malaysian government is the largest employer in the country.

“(As) the government is the biggest employer, (can it be held) liable for the action of civil servants?”

“If public servants are found guilty, then someone in government may have to go to jail,” he said.

Azman said this issue is a serious one and agreed employers should be allowed the chance to give their feedback before making the provision into law.

“Don’t push it down our throats, I don’t think it’s fair.”

