

MEF raises monopoly concern

> New online system for foreign worker permit renewal leaves employers with no alternative

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PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) yesterday said it had submitted a letter to Home Minister Datuk Seri Ahmad Zahid Hamidi last week to stress that the new online system for foreign worker permit (PLKS) renewal will create a monopoly by MyEG Services Berhad (MyEG).

“(The) process creates a monopoly and there is no alternative for employers,” said MEF executive director Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan.

“Employers will have to take an insurance with MyEG, which is RM38, whereas it would be RM58 if the employer uses another insurance agency.

“Therefore, we urge the ministry to provide options to allow employers to register their employees either manually or through MyEG,” he told *theSun* via a telephone interview.

While the minister has not responded to MEF’s letter, Shamsuddin said he is glad that the matter will be raised in the Cabinet meeting this week, possibly due to the immense

negative feedback on the system from various parties.

Meanwhile, Federation of Malaysian Consumers Association (Fomca) deputy president Mohd Yusof Abdul Rahman reiterated that employers should be given a choice on the matter.

He also questioned the government’s need to outsource the service to a private company, which may compromise the security of information relating to both the employers and employees.

Malaysian Association of Foreign Maid Agencies president Jeffrey Foo said the issue is not so much the fee imposed, but rather the “monopolisation of a single entity and shutting down the counters”, resulting in employers not having a choice.

“We believe the Immigration Department has the expertise to undertake this,” Foo said.

Minister in the Prime Minister’s Department Datuk Dr Wee Ka Siong reportedly said three days ago that resolving the issue would involve studying views from certain quarters, including small and medium enterprises.