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Lim-Aids

PROVIDE COUNSELLING FOR AIDS INFECTED EMPLOYEES, FIRMS TOLD

SUBANG JAYA, Dec 13 (Bernama) -- Companies have been asked to expand the function of their human resources departments to include counselling for employees who are infected with HIV and Aids as part of their corporate responsibility

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said today employers should not totally discard such employees or adopt a discriminatory policy against them.

The employers should be more sensitive towards the suffering and needs of these employees, he said at a ceremony to mark the adoption of the Malaysian Aids Charter by Glaxo Wellcome (M) Sdn Bhd, a pharmaceutical company.

He told reporters later that the ministry was also disappointed with the cold response given by employers to the call to educate workers on subjects such as welfare, safety and health.

The ministry, he added, would give full support to employers who include in their human resources management, programmes on HIV and Aids education at the workplaces in order to instil awareness and to cultivate positive habits among the employees.

To give greater impact to the campaign, employers can hold special programmes such as "Aids Awareness Day" as part of their regular activities for their workers education, Lim said.

Malaysia Aids Council President Marina Mahathir, who was also present, said the issue of HIV and Aids in the workplace has generated much discussion among employers and Aids workers all over the world.

She said Malaysian companies have yet to experience the real economic impact of HIV and Aids, and therefore are still slow in providing Aids education to their staff.

Also present at the ceremony were British High Commissioner David Joseph Moss, Glaxo Wellcome managing director Zainal Abidin Majid and representatives from about 100 companies. -- BERNAMA

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