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Seagate as model firm to promote Rakan Muda

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IPOH, Fri. - Penang Seagate Industries (M) Sdn Bhd will be used as a model company to promote Rakan Muda activities because of its extensive involvement in conducting such programmes for its employees.

Deputy Youth and Sports Minister Datuk Loke Yuen Yow said today that Seagate's commitment in promoting such activities should be emulated by other companies as it was an excellent example of a company concerned for the welfare of its workers.

He said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had asked the ministry to prepare a report on the Rakan Muda activities carried out at Seagate to be used as an example for other companies.

"I have asked Seagate to prepare a report so that I can submit it to Dr Mahathir as soon as possible," he told reporters after launching the company's Rakan Muda activities for the Ipoh factory at the Kinta Free Industrial Zone.

This is the second Rakan Muda programme to be set up by Seagate.

The first was at the factory in Bayan Lepas.

Seagate has allocated RM250,000 for its Rakan Muda activities for the first six months of this year.

The company employs 20,000 workers at six plants and 90 per cent of them are aged below 25.

Loke said Seagate would be spending RM500,000 annually at three of its factories - in Penang, Perak and Johor - to carry out Rakan Muda activities.

He urged other big factories which have a substantial number of workers in the Rakan Muda age group to emulate Seagate which is the first to put up a serious Rakan Muda programme for its workers.

"It is a strong commitment by a company and it's commendable.

"The Government has always stressed that the companies, be they local or foreign, do social work apart from acquiring profits," he said.

Loke said Seagate's move in having Rakan Muda programmes was beneficial to the company and its workers because they could help increase productivity and create a sense of belonging.

He said it would also ensure that the workers were healthy physically and mentally.

"At a time when the Government is concerned about social ills, this move by Seagate is timely."

He said social problems could not be solved by the Government alone.

Loke said it would be a worthwhile move if companies could take care of its workers in the Rakan Muda age group.

He also said the ministry was entering its third phase of promoting the Rakan Muda programmes and would expand its coverage to include shopping complexes as places where Rakan Muda activities could be held.

For example, he said, the Phoenix Plaza in Cheras had allocated a floor for Rakan Muda activities, and this must be emulated by other shopping complexes.

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