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Unions, employers and agencies urged to organise joint Family Days

KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek today proposed that employers, unions and government agencies hold joint Family Days to foster goodwill and understanding.

Lim, proposing that a Family Day be held sometime in the third quarter of this year, said such events are vital to foster better understanding and networking among the parties.

"This type of a tripartite understanding will also help maintain industrial harmony," he told reporters after conducting a spot check at a construction site in Kajang.

Lim said the Malaysian Employers Federation could represent the employers and the Malaysian Trades Union Congress, the workers.

"My ministry can meanwhile co-ordinate among the Government agencies and organise such events," he said, adding that he has yet to speak with union leaders or the MEF on the matter.

Lim said if employers or union representatives had any ideas or suggestions on how the three parties could work together, they could always present them to him.

"My doors are always open to them (the union and employers' representatives)," he said, adding that the Government was working hard towards preserving industrial harmony.

Citing an example, Lim said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had now included union representatives in his foreign missions.

Lim said all parties should work hard to maintain the nation's growth and stability which have earned it the respect of many nations.

"If we want to see the continued growth of our nation, we must be united. We must sit and discuss issues and solve any problems that arise," he said, adding that this way, foreign investment in Malaysia would also increase.

Lim said to get the ball rolling, the Trades Union Department would hold courses for union leaders on accounting, selection of office bearers and related matters.

This would be followed by brainstorming sessions to find ways to strengthen co-operation between them.

Lim said although workers, union and employers' representatives met on a regular basis through the National Labour Advisory Council, there should be informal gatherings so that "we can be seen as one family".

Earlier, after inspecting a 10-storey shopping complex and two 10-storey apartment blocks under construction in the Winnie Plaza and City Height Apartments project, Lim said he was disappointed at the way the developer had carried out work.

"Even the quarters for the workers are not fit for living," he said.

The Department of Occupational Safety and Health had issued a stop work order to the developer and contractor Pak Sin Development Sdn Bhd on Feb 18 for failing to comply with safety standards.

Also present during the check were DOSH director-general Zakaria Nanyan and Serdang MP Datuk Yap Pian Hon.

Residents, too, had protested strongly against the project, claiming that the building plan contravened regulations under the Street, Drainage and Building Act 1974.

When contacted later, Kajang Municipal Council president Yusup Badul said he would review the plan to verify this.

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