

26 SEP 1998

Holiday

EMPLOYMENT ACT 1955 ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS MAY BE AMENDED

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 26 (Bernama) -- The Human Resources Ministry will propose an amendment to the Employment Act 1955 with a view to requiring employers to grant additional holidays declared by the government as paid holidays for their employees, its minister, Datuk Lim Ah Lek, said today.

Lim said the current provisions in the Act on public holidays stipulated that the employers were required to grant 10 gazetted public holidays with salary every year to each employees.

Speaking to reporters after opening the 14th Malaysia Airlines Employees Union (MASEU) general meeting at Kelana Jaya here, he said according to the Act, if the employers have already specified 10 or more public holidays amongst the gazetted holidays, such employers were not legally bound to grant their employees any additional public holidays declared by the government.

However, he said if the employers have decided to observe all gazetted public holidays in each year as paid holidays, then the employers would have to grant the additional holiday declared by the government as a paid holiday to employees and those required to work on that day must be paid triple the day's wages.

Lim was asked whether the additional public holiday declared by the government at the closing ceremony of the 16th Commonwealth Games early this week could be regarded as a paid holiday for employees who had to work on that day.

Lim advised employers not to adopt a legalistic approach in relation to the additional holiday on Monday and treat it as a paid holiday for their employees.

He said the additional holiday on Sept 28 as declared by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was a special holiday with great national significance in recognition of the country's historic and rewarding achievements in the Commonwealth Games.

Earlier, Lim praised MASEU for giving its full cooperation to the management to overcome problems faced by the national carrier due to the current economic problems.

He said close cooperation between workers and management should be adopted at all times to ensure that all conflicts which arose could be solved amicably without resorting to industrial action which would not benefit any party.

-- BERNAMA

AKT RM