

# Worker registration will improve quality.

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KUALA LUMPUR: The Construction Industry Development Board Malaysia (CIDB) will make it compulsory for all construction workers to be registered within the next two years.

CIDB chief executive Datuk Prof Haji Abdul Rahman Abdullah said the move is directed at upgrading standards and technical development in the construction industry.

"By doing this, we can verify the skills of all construction workers, including foreigners," he said.

"We can acquire statistics on the number of local and foreign construction workers employed in the country and determine their level of skill. This will assist us in preparing programmes for upgrading the level of various skills in the industry."

Abdul Rahman said those who are found to be lacking in the necessary skills would be required to undergo training.

"We are moving towards legislation to make it mandatory for construction workers to comply with the regulation as **we want** to ensure that only licenced workers with the relevant skills work in the construction industry," he said.

A draft proposal of the amendment to Act 520 is being perused by the Attorney-General's Office.

Currently only about 10%-12% of the construction industry workforce is registered with the CIDB, out of the three quarters of a million in the country. Of these, 71,635 are locals, and only 2,760 are foreign workers.

RM17,500 and site supervisor and managers, up to RM20,000.

Abdul Rahman was speaking at a press conference to announce Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed's visit to Sauiana Triangle Sdn Bhd's (STSB) project site at the orang asli settlement in Bukit Lanjan, Selangor next week.

The Prime Minister is expected to present certificates of proficiency to 17 orang asli youths who have completed their training in construction skills organised by the CIDB.

The youths received on-the-job training in bricklaying, plastering, carpentry and backhoe operations at the Damansara Perdana site which is being developed by STSB, a subsidiary of the Emkay Group.

The training programme was conducted in collaboration with STSB and sponsored by the Selangor state government, which allocated RM200,000 for the purpose.

Abdul Rahman called on orang asli youth nationwide to avail themselves of the opportunities for free training being offered by the CIDB via its Construction Academies in Selangor, Johor Baru and Terengganu.

He said the CIDB had allocated RM500,000 from its training fund for Orang Asli youth who wished to enter the profession.

He appealed to contractors of projects close to orang asli settlements to employ Orang Asli youths on their sites and provide them with training.

"This move is aimed at giving construction workers recognition and lifting up the status of the profession to make it more attractive, in terms of career opportunities," Abdul Rahman said.

One of the incentives being offered to registrants is a *Takaful* scheme which gives them 24-hour protection in any part of the world. The scheme covers death, disability and hospitalisation where general workers are covered up to