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CIDB says workers registering with board stand to gain

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THE Construction Industry Development Board (CIDB) is taking more aggressive steps to encourage more construction workers to register with the board.

As at end of January, only 12 per cent or 74,550 of the estimated 500,000 workers in the industry had registered with CIDB. Of the total, 2,760 are foreigners.

CIDB chief executive Datuk Abdul Rahman Abdullah said registration is necessary to enable the board to collate complete data for the use of the development plan of skilled manpower in the construction sector.

"Construction workers should not wait until the registration is made compulsory ... they should be alert to the advantages of registering," he told a press conference in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

The CIDB is currently in the process of making registration with the board mandatory to all workers in the industry.

The Attorney-General Chamber is now studying the Construction Industrial Development Board 520 Act for this purpose.

He said apart from being accredited with skills and competence acknowledgement, he said those registered will also be given free insurance coverage under Takaful.

To ease registration process, he pointed out that CIDB has provided the registration services not only at its state offices but also through the website.

Abdul Rahman also said the CIDB will be allocating some RM500,000 from its Training Fund to provide Orang Aslis with training on skill development.

It has carried out a pilot project of such training to 17 Orang Aslis at the Bukit Lanjan project site which was developed by Saujana Triangle Sdn Bhd. The Selangor State Government has allocated RM200,000 to sponsor the training cost.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed is expected to present certificates to these 17 Orang Asli trainees who have passed the course during his visit to the Saujana Triangle project site located within the Orang Asli settlement area at Bukit Lanjan on June 22.

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