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Sanusi-Estate

ESTATES NEED TO INFORM GOVERNMENT BEFORE RETRENCHING WORKERS

ALOR SETAR, July 21 (Bernama) -- Estate managements have been asked to inform the state government if they intend to retrench any of their workers, Menteri Besar Tan Sri Sanusi Junid said.

He said such notice would enable the state government to discuss with the estate managements before hand any problems which might be faced by the estate workers who were to be retrenched.

"I feel discussions should be held with the estate managements if they intend to terminate the services of their workers, especially in cases of mass retrenchment," he told reporters after chairing an Exco meeting here today.

He disclosed this when asked to comment on the retrenchment of 450 workers by three plantation companies in the state since early this year.

Some of the retrenched workers had faced accommodation problems following the termination of their services, although they received appropriate compensation from the estate managements.

At the moment, the retrenched workers were still staying in the workers' quarters of the respective estates. The estates concerned are Ketumbar Estate and Kuala Ketil Estate in Baling and Victoria Estate in Padang Serai.

Sanusi said the problem had now been brought to his attention and he had directed State Exco for Public Works and Human Resources Datuk V. Saravanan to resolve the problem.

Meanwhile, commenting on the speech by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad who appeared to be appealing to the voters to support Barisan Nasional (BN) lately, Sanusi said that was the style of the Malays.

"We have to appeal and cannot force them to vote for us...so I don't see anything wrong," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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