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FOREIGN WORKERS TO GET SAME SOCSO COVERAGE

KUALA LUMPUR, April 21 (Bernama) -- Foreign workers will enjoy the same coverage and benefits as locals when the Social Security Organisation (Socso) scheme is extended to them, Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said today.

Their contribution of 0.5 percent of their monthly salary to Socso would ensure that they got rights, protection and benefits similar to those given to Malaysian workers, he said.

The government will not discriminate against foreign workers by having a different contribution scheme, he told reporters after the ministry's post-Cabinet meeting here.

Presently, foreign workers only have their salaries deducted for compulsory insurance payments.

Lim also described as irresponsible the picket by a group comprising estate workers, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and other interested parties in front of Parliament building on Monday.

The estate workers wanted Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to intervene in their claims for a RM750 minimum monthly salary, bonus of a month's pay, annual increment of RM50 and a retrenchment benefit of RM1,000 for every year of service.

Lim said under the new collective agreement, estate workers are guaranteed 24 days' wages even when they could not go out tapping.

-- BERNAMA

DRW YBY