

09/06/1999

`Reward staff for hard work'

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SEREMBAN, Tues. - Companies whose performance improved despite the economic downturn due to the hard work of their workers should reward them by paying bonuses.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said these companies should follow the Government's example of giving RM600 to civil servants and approving salary adjustments for employees of five statutory bodies.

He said that with the economy improving day by day, it was time employers showed gratitude to their workers for their hard work and support during the downturn.

"Many companies are doing well now. They should thank their workers for this. So, there is no reason why they should not reward their workers accordingly."

Lim said if the companies did not recognise their workers' contributions and reward them, they would end up losing good workers.

On companies which used the economic downturn as an excuse to avoid rewarding their workers, Lim said there were very few such cases.

"If the companies are not doing well, it is fair that workers don't make demands. But if the companies are doing well, there is no reason why they should not pay their workers bonuses.

"There should be a mutual understanding between the employers and workers to look after each other's interests."

Lim, who was speaking after officiating at a fund-raising dinner for Sekolah Rendah Kebangsaan Pei Hua yesterday, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad should be thanked for the salary adjustment for employees of the statutory bodies and not him (Lim).

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