

31 JUL 2000

Fong-Scheme

FONG PERSUADES EMPLOYERS TO ACCEPT RETRENCHMENT SCHEME

PETALING JAYA, July 31 (Bernama) -- The Human Resources Ministry will continue to hold discussions with the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) and other organisations related to the employment sector to implement the national retrenchment scheme (SPP).

Its minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said the ministry would provide explanations on the implementation of the SPP to employers in an effort to assist workers who were being retrenched.

"Employers should realise that the SPP would help workers whose services are being terminated without any payment," he said at a press conference after presenting Social Security Organisation (Socso) benefits and two haemodialysis machines to the Sau Seng Lum Haemodialysis Centre, here today.

On Saturday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the government's willingness to implement the SPP which was proposed by the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) two years ago.

However, the government could not implement the scheme at the moment following opposition from the MEF.

If employers are agreeable to the proposal, workers whose services are being terminated will have an opportunity to receive monthly allowances.

However, MEF executive director Shamsuddin Bardan was still holding on to the MEF's original stand to reject the proposal on grounds that employers would incur higher operational cost to implement the scheme.

Fong cited the fate of the more than 2,000 employees of Applied Magnetics (M) Sdn Bhd in Penang which was wound up on Jan 14 and the company's managing director left Malaysia without paying compensation of RM10.4 million to the workers affected.

He said that under the preliminary proposal for the scheme, each employer and worker must contribute RM1 every month to Socso.

Meanwhile, Fong said Socso was providing two haemodialysis machines worth RM80,000 to the Sau Seng Lum Haemodialysis Centre to help kidney patients to seek treatment at a lower cost.

He said Socso had approved an allocation of RM1 million to buy 25 haemodialysis machines to be presented to several voluntary dialysis centres.

Socso was also allocating RM3 million by the end of the year to assist its panel of dialysis centres, he said.

To date, there are 46 dialysis centres managed by non-governmental organisations (NGO's) and seven private centres appointed as Socso's panel of dialysis centres nationwide.

However, Socso only bears the cost for the dialysis process not including medication for the patient.

At the ceremony, Fong also presented Socso benefits worth RM200,000 to 20 recipients who had met with accidents.

-- BERNAMA

RZS AHH AO