

19 SEP 2001

Fong-Holiday

RECOGNISE THIS SATURDAY AS PUBLIC HOLIDAY, EMPLOYERS TOLD

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 19 (Bernama) -- The Minister of Human Resources Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn have reminded employers to recognise and observe Saturday (Sept 22) as a public holiday and let their workers take it.

"Unless unavoidable, they should let their workers take the public holiday. Workers required to work on that day should be compensated with double their daily rate," he told reporters at the ministry here today.

Fong explained this in the context of the declaration by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that Saturday (Sept 22) is a public holiday following Malaysia's accomplishment as overall champions of the 21st SEA Games which ended last Monday,

"Observing the Sept 22 public holiday is mandatory under Section 60D (1)(b) of the Employment Act 1955," he said, adding that this legislation applied to employers in Peninsular Malaysia.

As for workers in Sabah and Sarawak, Fong said he was using his ministerial powers to compel employers there to recognise Saturday as the extra public holiday.

Employers ignoring the related provision under the Act, in this case refusing to let their workers take this Saturday's declared public holiday, are liable to a fine not exceeding RM10,000, he said.

Earlier, also at the ministry, Fong witnessed a demonstration on job clearing and office productivity support systems for the ministry's proposed electronic labour exchange (ELX) project using the Internet.

The on-line facility would enable job-seekers find jobs matching their qualifications while employers could advertise vacancies requiring compatible workers, he said.

Since the facility would also provide international access, graduating Malaysian students abroad could seek jobs in the country well before returning home, he said.

Unlike other employment websites, the proposed ELX would be a more official channel and the ministry expected it to be fully operational by early next year.

-- BERNAMA

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