

MMA supports paternity leave proposal for new dads

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — Malaysia should follow the international norm and allow women in the workforce to take 90 days maternity leave, said Malaysian Medical Association president Datuk Dr N. Athimulam today.

However, he added, the 90 days ought to be balanced with the human resources available as well.

“MMA would like to stress that there should not be any gender discrimination when this allocation is implemented,” he said. They also supported Malaysian Trades Union Congress proposal of paternity leave for men and a 90-day maternity leave for women.

Dr Athimulam said employers ought to pay for appropriate maternity care.

“The MMA supports paternity leave for husbands as a woman who undergoes normal childbirth, takes about a week to recover. If she has had a Caesarean section, the support from her husband would be very much needed,” he added.

Yesterday, MTUC president Senator Zainal Rampak said that he would be meeting Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in May to discuss further on its proposed two-week paternity leave for men and 90 days maternity leave, from the present 60 days, for women.

MTUC submitted its proposal to the Prime Minister on Dec 8.