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Firms should opt for five-day week

Siti Nurziana

I REFER to the "Family First - Bring Your Heart Home" campaign launched by our Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to emphasis a comprehensive approach for the development of a happy and healthy family institution.

Besides boosting local tourism, another main reason why the Government declared the first and third Saturdays of the month as holidays for the public sector is to enable the public servants to have more time with their families.

The problem is in the private sector. There are still a number of local private companies working a 51-day week at the expense of the employees' families and local tourism.

The employees of the 51-day week companies are forced to have much less time with their families compared to those working in five-day week companies. Owners of 51-day week companies should go for quality and not quantity of working days.

If local-based foreign companies can be so successful with a five-day week, why can't local private companies?

Since the majority of the country's work-force is in the private sector, working a five-day week will reduce petrol consumption and reduce air