

Malaysian workers can do part-time jobs from Oct 1
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JASIN - Some 17.5 million Malaysian workers can work part time from Oct 1 under a new clause in the Employment Act enabling them to earn extra income and reduce dependency on foreign workers.

The new regulation under the Employment Act 1955 would apply to some 12 million existing workers from both private and public sectors with another 6.5 million latent workforce in the country.

The Cabinet has agreed to implement the new regulations to better regulate and protect part time workers, said Human Resource Minister Dr S. Subramaniam (left), The Star reported.

Cited as The Work Regulations (Part-Time Workers) 2010, the new set of rules is a regulation by itself under the Employment Act 1955.

It would ensure that the protection of rights and benefits of part-time workers are implemented in a clearer and comprehensive manner, he told reporters after attending a Meet-The-Client Day programme here on Monday.

Subramaniam said that according to the new regulation, part-time workers would be given salaries and other relevant benefits such as Employees Provident Fund (EPF) contributions, Social Security Organisation (Socso) coverage and medical entitlements based on a pro rata basis.

The new regulation provides a clear guideline with formulas for employers on how to calculate the figures correctly, he said, adding the new regulation would be effective Oct 1 and is in the process of being gazetted.

The new regulation would help lessen the country's dependence on foreign workers while increasing the participation of the latent workforce in the country's labour market.

He said the 6.5 million latent workforce in the country includes housewives, disabled citizens, students and undergraduates who are productive workers.

Most of them from the latent workforce are skilled and educated.

The Star reported him as saying: "If they can be included in the workforce market, not only will it be a great boost to our local labour strength but also help generate more income domestically."

For employers, he noted, they would have a choice of hiring workers based on their business needs without relying too much on foreign workers.

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