

PM: Govt committed to rebuilding labour market

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government has and will continue to provide all forms of necessary assistance to rebuild the country's labour market, which is not spared by the health and economic crises brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob pledged that it was his commitment that the country's recovery plan be all-encompassing and inclusive.

This, he said, was in line with the "Keluarga Malaysia" spirit as espoused by the federal government under his leadership.

"Keluarga Malaysia sums up the spirit of the nation, as we continue to focus on the national development agenda and make sure fellow Malaysians are taken care of.

"In order to increase opportunities, provide room for them to fend for themselves, and continue to be productive, the Malaysian government has and will continue to provide financial, job and training incentives to ensure that no one is left behind while we plan to exit the crisis safely.

"It is my commitment that the country's recovery from this pandemic will be all-encompassing and inclusive," said Ismail Sabri in a speech at the closing of the International Public Employment Forum 2021: Reviving, Realigning and Rebuilding the Labour Market.

His speech was read by Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan.

The Covid-19 pandemic, said the prime minister, had taught the nation an invaluable lesson on the need for the people to embrace the new norms in all

aspects of life.

"I also believe that several short- and long-term measures need to be taken to accelerate the transformation in the labour market," he said.

Ismail Sabri added that expansion of an inclusive and active labour market should include a reintegration strategy, which formed an important part of any initiative that sought to protect social security.

He said it was crucial for job search assistance, disability management, entrepreneurship programmes, vocational education and training to be expanded and extended to every layer of the population.

"I take this opportunity to commend the Social Security Organisation (Socso), which has played an active role in the implementation of these initiatives since the pandemic first hit the country."

Earlier, Socso chief executive officer Datuk Seri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed said the organisation would be more active in establishing cooperation throughout the world to promote and encourage participation in its initiatives.

"I believe that comprehensive social security and employment opportunities, along with support from the government and industry players, will improve the nation when facing any crisis," he said in a speech.

Azman said he hoped the event had given insights into the way forward, especially in matters related to employers and employees, who were the backbone of every nation.