

PM: GLC, GLIC BOARDS MUST HAVE MTUC REPS

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It will provide a platform for workers to air complaints, grievances, says Ismail Sabri

ARFA YUNUS
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

GOVERNMENT-LINKED companies (GLCs) and government-linked investment companies (GLICs) must appoint Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) representatives to their board of directors, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob said yesterday.

He said the presence of MTUC representatives on GLC and GLIC boards would provide a platform for workers to air complaints and grievances.

“As part of efforts to enhance transparency, I would like to announce that all GLCs and GLICs must appoint an MTUC representative to their board of directors.

“This is to ensure that the workers will be taken into account when the directors make a decision.

“The government hopes to see all employees play their roles in administrative matters,” he said when officiating at the 42nd MTUC Assembly in Universiti Malaya here yesterday.

Present were Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan and MTUC secretary-general Kamarul Baharin Mansor.

Ismail Sabri said national development could be expedited if the working class took part in government-related matters by maintaining stability, unity and industrial relations.

He said it was important for workers to reskill and upskill, adding that MTUC must prepare a holistic, effective and comprehensive plan for the public.

As part of Putrajaya’s effort to empower MTUC, Ismail Sabri said, the government had agreed to provide a RM4 million yearly grant to MTUC.

“The government has agreed to provide an annual grant of RM4 million to MTUC to implement awareness and training pro-

grammes.

“I am confident that through strategic educational plans, MTUC can continue to play a vital role in producing dynamic employees.

“As an umbrella body that fights for the rights and development of workers, MTUC should be mindful of the needs of special union members from the B40 and hardcore poor groups.”

Ismail Sabri, who is the first prime minister to be invited to officiate at an MTUC assembly, said the plight of the working class was close to his heart.

“The Malaysian Family approach aims to ensure that none of our family members live in poverty. I understand this well because where I came from, I was surrounded by poverty.”

On the current price hikes of essential items, Ismail Sabri said the country had eased the burden on the people after Putrajaya subsidised certain essential items.

“Our inflation (rate) is still low compared with other countries because we give subsidies.

“Instead of buying a chicken for RM23, like in Singapore, we pay about RM9, thanks to our subsidies.”