

GOVT STARTS VEHICLE INSURANCE SCHEME

MyEzyCover for civil servants allows payments by instalments without interest

HANA NAZ HARUN
KUALA LUMPUR
news@nst.com.my

THE government yesterday announced the Keluarga Malaysia Vehicle Insurance Financing programme, MyEzyCover.com, a financial aid package that allows up to 10 months of instalment payments without interest charges.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob, in his Labour Day speech that was aired live on TV1 yesterday, said MyEzyCover would first be offered to civil servants and later expanded to private sector workers.

"This programme will be implemented by the Human Resources Ministry, in collaboration with the Social Security Organisation (Socso) and Angkatan Koperasi Kebangsaan Malaysia Bhd (Angkasa)."

He said the government was aiming to protect at least one million self-employed workers under Socso's Self-Employment Social Security Scheme; it would bear 80 per cent of the contribution required from an individual.

He said the RM1,500 minimum wage, which came into effect yesterday, was a gift to workers for their tireless dedication in developing the country's economy.

He said the government agreed to make it mandatory for public sector workplaces to set up nurseries, involving federal and state governments and statutory bodies, adding that for this purpose, the government had provided an annual grant of RM10 million in 2019 and RM30 million from 2020.

He said the reopening of the country's borders had allowed the reemployment of foreign workers, especially in 3D (dirty, dangerous and difficult) sectors.

He said this would not sideline local workers, as a comprehensive plan would be devised to reduce the country's dependence on foreign workers.

"The Human Resources Ministry has been asked to look into



An image attached to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob's Labour Day post on Facebook yesterday.

and study this so that local workers can benefit from better pay, employment packages and career advancement.

"The government has launched the UpSkills Malaysia portal for workers to improve their skills.

"It is a one-stop centre that provides information on 6,143 training providers in 35 skill areas."

He said the government was committed to protecting the rights of local and foreign workers, especially in forced labour issues.

He said the government's ratification of Protocol 29 of the International Labour Organisation was proof of its commitment to eradicate forced labour.

"This ratification is a proactive move by the government to ensure Malaysian products and goods are no longer restricted in the international market due to allegations of forced labour in the country."

To protect the rights of Keluarga Malaysia workers, he said, the government had introduced several initiatives, including approving amendments to the Employment Act 1955 to extend maternity leave to 98 days and granting seven days of paternity leave.

The government also reduced working hours from 48 hours a week to 45 hours to promote work-life balance and increased the ceiling of the insured monthly salary from RM4,000 to RM5,000, benefiting nine million workers, especially Socso contributors.

"To encourage workers to be active in trade unions, the Trade Union Act 1959 is being amended and has been passed for its first reading in the Dewan Rakyat on March 24.

"The government, through Socso, has allocated RM267 million to improve operations involving the contribution rate and benefits."

He said the minimum rate of retirement pension paid to eligible dependents had been raised from RM475 to RM550 a month, benefiting 56,000 households.

"The government is confident Keluarga Malaysia workers will remain resilient and continue to be strategic partners in developing the country's economy.

"Once again, I would like to express my deepest gratitude and wish Happy Labour Day to all workers and leaders and members of trade unions in the country.

"I would also like to wish Selamat Hari Raya Aidilfitri to all Muslim Keluarga Malaysia, especially workers."

Earlier in a Facebook post, Ismail Sabri said the government had always appreciated the contribution of Keluarga Malaysia workers.

He said this year's Labour Day theme, "Pekerja Tonggak Keluarga Malaysia Dalam Pemulihan Negara" (Workers are Keluarga Malaysia Pillars in National Recovery), reflected the unity and cooperation of Keluarga Malaysia in reviving the economy.