

Extended injury scheme for workers to roll out soon

KUALA LUMPUR: Malaysia will soon roll out the Non-Employment Injury Scheme to ensure workers remain protected even beyond office hours, announced Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday.

He said the scheme reflects a recognition that the pressures of modern work do not end at the factory gate or office door.

"In an age of flexible and remote arrangements, this reform would align protection with the realities of how people live and work today.

"It would extend coverage around the clock, recognising that accidents and injuries do not keep to a

timetable," he said in his keynote address at the World Social Security Forum here.

Also present were Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi, Human Resources Minister Steven Sim Chee Keong, Women, Family and Community Development Minister Datuk Seri Nancy Shukri and Youth and Sports Minister Hannah Yeoh.

Health Minister Datuk Seri Dr Dzulkefly Ahmad, Digital Minister Gobind Singh Deo, Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Abdul Rahman Mohamad and International Social Security

Association president Datuk Seri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed were also in attendance.

Earlier this month, Sim said the Human Resources Ministry is drafting amendments to the Employees Social Security Act 1969 to provide 24-hour protection for employees under the Social Security Organisation.

Anwar also stressed that Malaysia is embedding digital systems to deliver protection more effectively and ensure no community, however remote, is left behind.

"Progress is ongoing, although far from perfect. But the conviction that guides us is clear, true prosperity is

not measured by the size of our skyscrapers or GDP but by the dignity with which ordinary citizens live their daily lives," he said.

He underlined that social protection is not merely a bureaucratic system of benefits, but a moral infrastructure.

"Earlier civilisations understood this. In the Islamic tradition, the *baitulmal* ensured wealth served the poor, the widowed, the orphaned and the elderly. That legacy of justice and solidarity continues to inspire us."

Anwar said guided by these principles, Malaysia is reshaping its social protection landscape by

extending security to those who have long stood outside the net, including informal workers, homemakers and gig riders.

Themed "Shaping Social Security For A World In Transition" the five-day forum gathers more than 1,500 participants from over 135 countries to discuss a global roadmap for an inclusive, sustainable and future-ready social security system.

The forum would culminate in the World Social Security Summit on Friday, during which leaders are expected to set the tone for the next decade of global social security. - Bernama