

**Workers Need To Increase Productivity - CUEPACS President
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 2 (Bernama) -- Three initiatives announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak yesterday was a "special gift" to all employees in conjunction with Labour Day celebration, said Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (CUEPACS) president Datuk Azih Muda.

He said workers need to increase their productivity following the improvements on employees welfare made via the initiatives.

"CUEPACS welcomes the moves made, such as on health protection, it is vital for workers, the government should also give attention to those earning RM4,000 and below, who come under the low income group.

"Therefore, employers should accept these initiatives to ensure workers well-being is taken care of and in order for them to perform better and increase productivity," he told Bernama when contacted, here Saturday.

Azih was commenting on the prime minister's suggestion for the ceiling for workers insurance coverage be increased from RM3,000 to RM4,000. He also welcomed the announcement of civil servants' unrecorded three-day compassionate leave being expanded to cases of death of in-laws, foster parents and adopted children, as CUEPACS had raised the issues previously.

"Death is an unexpected matter, therefore it should be extended as it will benefit civil servants," Azih said.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Government Retirees Association president Tan Sri Wan Mahmood Pawan Teh said the moves made by the government to improve the welfare of workers was a relief as it will boost their productivity and work quality.

"The success of an organisation is determined by the labor force," he said.

Yesterday, the prime minister also announced that the Social Security Organisation's (SOCSO) free health screening programme for private sector employees aged 40 years and above will be continued and that a mobile health screening service would be provided whereby health checks can be conducted at the workplace of the respective employees.

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