

PLENARY SPEECH – 110th ILC, GENEVA

By

Mohd Effendy Abdul Ghani
Deputy President MTUC

Respected Chair, all the members of the committee and to all the participants present both physically and also virtually.

We are nearing the end of the 110th ILC session held in 2022 with discussions attended by Governments', Workers' and Employers' representatives from 187 ILO Member States discussing world of work issues. This year, occupational safety and health, apprenticeships, as well as the social and solidarity economy are among the items on the agenda of the Conference.

As in previous years, The Malaysian Trades Union Congress also participated in presenting some views and proposals that need to be addressed by the Government and employers. Of course, what has been presented at this session is simply to create better industrial relations in the spirit of tripartite between workers, employers and the Government to in line with international standards, especially as required in the implementation of Convention 98. It is not an international platform intended to discredit any party. We are confident that the current leadership of the Government is more open in listening to the grievances and opinions of the working class in ensuring the interests of the working class as a driver and determinant of a better national economy.

We at MTUC hopes that in 2022, will bring many positive changes from the Government's actions. This includes continuing discussions with the MTUC and also employers' representatives on any changes in national policy, especially in the discussion of amendments to national labour laws. The continuing spirit of tripartisme must be continued. In line with the theme of Labour Day 2022 this year, the government must seriously consider workers as the pillars of the Malaysian family in the country's recovery. All good industry relations will continue to be maintained in upholding the working class in Malaysia. This also includes migrant workers in Malaysia.

Hopefully, the discussion on the amendment bill for the Trade Union Act 1959 this year can also be completed with a good understanding and provide benefits to a

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more dynamic and successful Malaysian trade union movement. In addition, we hope that the Government should also be sensitive to the difficulties of the workers who are going through today with the burden of the cost of rising prices of goods. In the same hand, we would like to thank to Government of Malaysia for the announcement on the increasing the minimum wage. After 2 years, we are in a pandemic era and with Government implementations such as the strict Movement Control Order or Lockdown, workers in Malaysia have lost their jobs as well as income. Now, Malaysia is heading into an endemic stage with the economic situation improving, but the increase in the price of basic goods is indirectly burdening the working class. With this, we hope that more holistic efforts and actions can be taken to ensure that the working class does not continue to be a burden.

Lastly, we thanked the MTUC partners, brothers and sisters who attended this session with great enthusiasm and at their own expense, without funding from MTUC. The same goes for our international trade union partner, ITUC who has provided much insight and support from the very beginning. And finally, to the ILO for giving us the space and opportunity to present our views and proposals internationally.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH AND SEE YOU ALL AGAIN NEXT YEAR