



MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

**STATEMENT BY**

**HONOURABLE M. SARAVANAN  
MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES OF MALAYSIA**

**AT THE**

**PLENARY SESSION OF THE  
110<sup>TH</sup> SESSION OF THE INTERNATIONAL LABOUR CONFERENCE**

**DATE : 9 JUNE 2022 (THURSDAY)**

**TIME : 2.00 PM – 6.30 PM (GENEVA TIME)  
8.00 PM – 12.30 PM (MALAYSIA TIME)**

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Mr. Chair,

Distinguished Delegates.

Good Afternoon.

2. First and foremost, allow me to join the others in **congratulating Mr. Gilbert Hougbo** for his recent appointment as the Director General of the ILO and may **he continue the good work of the previous Director General, Mr. Guy Ryder** and **bring about progressive approach in addressing the long term impact of COVID-19 in the world of work.**

3. Malaysia welcomes the **ILO Director General's Report on the Least Developed Countries: Crisis, Structural Transformation, and the Future of Work** and pleased to see that much focus is placed on the least developed countries, particularly as we are moving towards achieving the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, premised on the **concept of leaving no one behind.**

4. As such, at a domestic level, efforts were concentrated on those most affected by the pandemic, whereby the Government of Malaysia emphasizes **on the role of labour in reviving the country's economy as the key enabler in the recovery process.**

5. Firstly, the introduction of the **JaminKerja initiative** is aimed at providing **600,000 job opportunities in 2022 with an allocation of USD 1.1 billion.** This initiative is part of the Government's commitment to reduce the unemployment rate from 4.1% to the rate before COVID-19 at 3.3%.

6. Secondly, the Government has taken a bold step to further assist workers and stimulate the economy by introducing **a new national monthly minimum wage which saw an increment of 25% of the previous minimum wage.**

7. Realizing that this may burden the industries, the Government has continued the wage subsidy programme to cushion the financial impact of minimum wage which to date has benefited **350,000 employers** and help retain **2.7 million workers.**

8. Further, the Government also realizes that there needs to be a stronger will to **provide decent work that covers fundamental principles and rights at work as well as better social protection to all workers.**

9. To that end, this year alone, the Government has **successfully gazetted the Occupational Safety and Health Act and amended the Employment Act based on the International Labour Standards requirements.**

10. In addition, Malaysia has introduced the **Self-Employment Social Security Scheme** to provide social security to self-employed individuals in light of the recent rise in the gig economy and digital platform workers.

11. Malaysia is also **proud to have been one of the recent ILO Member States to ratify the ILO Protocol 29 in March 2022** as part of our ongoing commitment to eradicate forced labour. I thank the ILO for the solid cooperation and technical assistance and hope that the collaboration will continue to be strengthened.

12. Malaysia **looks forward to the conclusion of this year's Conference Agenda**, especially on the inclusion of occupational safety and health as fundamental

principles and rights at work – as this **is indeed timely and resonates well with the arising issues during and after pandemic COVID-19.**

13. Malaysia **also awaits with keen interest on the conclusion of the discussion on social and solidarity economy** towards advancing social justice through decent work and believes that this will provide a much-needed baseline, as we build back from the adverse impact of COVID-19.

14. With that, I thank you and I wish for all to have continued success ahead.

**International Division  
Ministry of Human Resources  
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