

SPEECH OF THE PRESIDENT OF MALAYSIAN EMPLOYERS FEDERATION

DATUK DR SYED HUSSEIN SYED HUSMAN, P.J.N., J.P. AT THE ILC

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Thank you Chair

President of the Conference,

Director General of ILO,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen

On the recurrent discussion of employment creation, I am glad to share that Malaysia had taken proactive approach on the matter. MEF is very much involved in the programmes and processes. The government allocated USD 1.09 billion through the Employment Guarantee scheme under which 600,000 new job opportunities will be created in 2022. In Malaysia, Covid-19 had significantly impacted jobs and sources of income. Unemployment rose to 5.3% in May 2020 and the figure had since dropped to 4.1% in March 2022 with 669,200 people unemployed.

Similar initiative is adopted by Social Security Organisation which aims to provide 300,000 job opportunities with an allocation of USD 0.45 billion. Private sector employers will benefit through 20% wages subsidy for the first six months and another 30% for the following six months.

In encouraging employers to hire People With Disabilities, Indigenous People and former prisoners, subsidises of 30% of wages for the first six months are given, and 40% in the following six months. Women are encouraged to return to the workforce and the scheme is extended to employers who hire women who have been jobless for more than 365 days, single mothers and housewives.

As President of MEF, I am appointed as a member of the National Employment Council (NEC). The Council implements the strategies to create and preserve jobs. The Council works to recover and stimulate the economy, with a comprehensive approach, based on data and in line with the requirements of the industries and taking into account the people's wellbeing and the country's

economic resilience. The NEC also embarked on skills training placements through strategic collaboration between government agencies and private sector industry players.

The discussion of the Conference on the framework for quality apprenticeships is indeed timely. Appropriate policies on skills development and lifelong learning need to be put in place. To encourage Malaysians to upgrade their skills, increased tax exemptions are given for expenditures related to upskilling courses or self-improvement programmes. MEF is actively involved in the development and upgrading of TVET education through its fully owned training arm, the MEF Academy. MEF Academy in collaboration with the ILO and Institutes of Higher Learning offer certified courses, Diploma and Degree programmes. The government set up the National TVET Council with active involvement of the private sector. Three strategic thrusts of the National TVET Council are integrated and coordinated governance, industry-driven TVET and TVET shaping the future workforce.

MEF collaborated with the ILO Safe and Fair Programme to develop 3 Templates and Investigative Guidelines to guide employers to eliminate violence, harassment and sexual harassment at the workplace. Workshops were organized to share these tools with members. MEF also collaborated with ILO Project: From Protocol to Practice: A Bridge to Global Action on Forced Labour. It was successfully implemented with the production of 2 short videos on practical tips to address risk factors that could lead to forced labour during recruitment and employment of migrant workers.

Last but not least MEF is very grateful for the assistance rendered by ILO and IOE to strengthen the capacity of MEF and raising awareness on International Standards to guide the private sector employers in Malaysia.

Thank you.