



MINISTRY OF
INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INDUSTRY

MEDIA RELEASE

MITI PUSHES FOR AWARENESS ON LABOUR STANDARDS COMPLIANCE AMONG MANUFACTURERS

Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI) today debuted its seminar addressing labour standards compliance issues among manufacturers, particularly on foreign workers management. The initiative is a proactive measure, also a capacity building programme, to provide the current context for manufacturers to create a sustainable supply chain through adherence to labour standards.

The seminar titled '**Briefing Session on Labour Standards Compliance for Sustainable Supply Chain**', saw the participation of more than 150 attendees who are manufacturers from various sectors, including the rubber glove sector. The programme highlighted topics such as 'Implementation of the Employment Act in relation to elimination of forced labour elements'; 'Workers' Minimum Standards of Housing and Amenities Act, or Akta 446'; and 'Mechanisms for industry's resilience in global supply chain'.

The speakers at the event include representatives from the Department of Labour Malaysia, Embassy of United States in Kuala Lumpur and Responsible Business Alliance.

MITI's Deputy Secretary General (Investment) Datuk Bahria Mohd Tamil in her opening speech at the seminar said due to the constantly evolving economy, creation of appropriate environment and ecosystem for the industry is necessary to elevate Malaysia's competitiveness globally.

"Issues related to foreign workers management have been raised from time to time especially on forced labour allegations against our industries. As such, it is important



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that we address and manage this effectively to ensure our industries is not further implicated with allegations of forced labour,” she said, adding that there are approximately two million registered foreign workers currently in the country; close to 700,000 of them, or 35 per cent of them are in the manufacturing sector.

The seminar is MITI’s response in helping the industries better manage their foreign workers and is timely too. In the long run, MITI hopes for such initiative to help enhance Malaysia’s branding as a hub for sustainable supply chain.

“In view of this, MITI sees the urgent need to organise this briefing session to address some of the cross-cutting issues raised by industry players and clarify the policies and guidelines relating to labour standards compliance in Malaysia as well as reminding industries the importance to adhere to labour standards and eliminate forced labour elements in their industry,” Datuk Bahria shared.

Ministry of International Trade & Industry (MITI)
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About MITI

MITI is the key driver in making Malaysia the preferred destination for quality investments and enhancing the nation's rising status as a globally competitive trading nation. Its objectives and roles are oriented towards ensuring Malaysia’s rapid economic development and help achieve the country's stated goal of becoming a developed nation.

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