



MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCES

MEDIA STATEMENT

WORKING VISIT TO GENEVA DAN LONDON

1. I am currently undertaking a working visit to Geneva, Switzerland from 20 to 22 March 2022. I will deposit the ratification of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) on forced labour which is Protocol 29 on 21 March 2022.
2. The ratification of Protocol 29 is part of the Government's measures in addressing forced labour issue and demonstrates the Government's commitment at the international level. This is also in line with the Cabinet Meeting decision on 19 November 2021 for the Minister of Human Resources to deposit the ratification of Protocol 29.
3. Throughout my working visit in Geneva, I will meet with the ILO Director General and the ILO Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific to discuss on labour issues as well as sharing of good practices that have been implemented by the Government. These include the implementation of the National Action Plan on Forced Labour (NAPFL), the Working for Workers mobile app, the enforcement of the Employment Act 1955 and the Employers' Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodation and Amenities Act 1990 [Act 446], as well as the implementation of eWages.
4. Further, I will also undertake a working visit to London, United Kingdom to explore opportunities for bilateral cooperation in various areas including on the Modern Slavery Act 2015. This Act stipulates the obligation of employers to conduct audits and report incidents of forced labour in their supply chain. This would be useful for the Government to review as forced labour incidents have also occur in Malaysia's supply chains due to the lack of proper mechanism to address the problem.

5. During my working visit, I am scheduled to meet with my counterpart, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions to discuss labour and employment issues. I am also scheduled to meet with the UK's Migration and Modern Slavery Envoy to discuss issues related to protection to workers particularly in labour exploitation and forced labour.

6. I will also meet with TVET (Technical and Vocational Education and Training) organisations in the United Kingdom to share views and good practices. The meeting is aimed at discussing issues of mutual interests in line with the Ministry's objective for an integrated and comprehensive TVET approach especially in digital talent. This is also in line with the Shared Prosperity Vision 2030 for 35 percent skilled workers in the country's workforce.

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