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GABUNGAN DEWAN PERNIAGAAN DAN PERINDUSTRIAN CINA MALAYSIA
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Press Release on Strike by Foreign Workers caused by Minimum Wage Issue

The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) calls on the Government to intervene immediately in the case of strikes by foreign workers recently in Muar to avoid the situation from getting worse and spreading to other parts of the country as it would dampen investment atmosphere.

The strikes were caused by disputes on calculation of minimum wage, although some cases have been tentatively resolved after negotiation, however, without a clear and updated guideline from government on the foreign workers' levy and other details of implementation of minimum wage, the employers are facing uncertainties in paying their foreign workers. Dissatisfaction of local and foreign workers will be mounting if this situation continues.

Though there have been no physical conflicts or large scale smashing being reported, the strikes have caused predicament to the industry. The ACCCIM is concerned that if the strikes in Muar are not resolved in time, the situation may deteriorate and spread to industries in other States and would have adverse consequence on industrial production as a whole.

ACCCIM urges the Government to promptly announce the latest guidelines on implementation of minimum wage for foreign workers, including the payment of levy by existing foreign workers to reduce the financial burden of employers and outflow of foreign exchange, and to rectify the situation where the foreign workers are earning more than the locals. ACCCIM also urges the Ministry of Home Affairs to take action against the foreign workers who participated in the strikes and deport them home if necessary, to prevent such situation from sparking off major incidence.

By
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