

'Not enough protection for bosses, employees'

DE 08-10-2012 6

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KOTA KINABALU: The Human Resources Ministry has been urged to pay serious attention to the issue of employees and employers receiving very minimal protection from the labour laws.

Dean of the Social Science School of the Universiti Malaysia Sabah (UMS), Prof. Madya Inon Shahrudin Abdul Rahman, said it is time the Ministry looked into the matter seriously because Malaysia will be attaining high-income status and be a developed nation by 2020.

"So, it is time for policy makers such as the Human Resources Ministry to pay serious attention on this matter," he said at a Seminar on Industry Relationship in Informal Sector: Government, Union



Prof. Madya Inon

and Employers Perspective.

He said the issue of employment and industrial relations in formal sector were often discussed. However, study and debate on the issue in the informal sector is very minimal.

Inon said, in reality, the main issue in the informal

sector is that the employees and employers are not getting enough protection under the labour laws of the country. Hence, the ministry must look into the matter seriously.

While commending the Government for introducing the minimum wage, he said the law only focused on the formal sector.

"Therefore, the employees and employers in this (informal) sector must be defended and given protection under the law," he stressed.

The seminar is held, he said, to expose participants to issues and challenges in industrial relations in the informal sector either at global or national levels.

He said it also provide the students the opportunity to present their working

papers at the university level and to inculcate the attitude on enhancement of human capital skills as well as to strengthen the good relations between the government, industry, community and university.

The seminar is held for the first time in Sabah and aimed at gathering all researches and information from industrial relations practitioners on issues and challenges in industrial relations in the informal sector.

Also present were Prof. Madya Dr Roszman Hussin, Head of Ethnography and Development Research Unit, Azizan Morshidi, Industrial Relations Programme Head and Prof Madya Dr Balakrishnan Parasuraman, advisor to the industrial relations seminar.