



**KEMENTERIAN PEMBANGUNAN
USAHAWAN DAN KOPERASI**
Ministry of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperatives

PRESS RELEASE

MEDAC TO ASSIST ON APPEAL TO EXPAND WAGES SUBSIDY PROGRAMME 3.0 PERMAI ELIGIBILITY TO SARAWAK COMPANIES

Kuching, 30 January 2021 – The Minister of Entrepreneur Development and Cooperative Dato Sri Dr Wan Junaidi Tuanku Jaafar has met up with representatives Sarawak Business Federation to help resolve issues concerning their ineligibility to apply for Wages Subsidy 3.0 Permai.

Unlike their counterparts in other states, many of the companies in Sarawak are not eligible to apply for this assistance because most areas in the state are placed under Conditional Movement Control Order (CMCO) whereas the subsidy is only applicable to businesses in areas under MCO.

He said that just like other parts of the country, businesses in Sarawak are also facing hard times from the severe drop in sales following the restricted movement due to COVID-19.

“I feel this is a technical issue that can be resolved amicably. It is not right for the Sarawak businesses to be deprived of this subsidy, which would certainly be significant to help them in this trying time.

“As a Sarawakian who hold a post as a Federal Minister, it is my duty to assist them in their appeal by raising this issue up to the relevant party and authority,” he added.

The Wage Subsidy Program (WSP1.0) was introduced last year to provide financial assistance to employers affected economically by COVID-19 pandemic to continue operations and avoid the loss of jobs and income streams for all enterprises in Malaysia.

Under this programme, initially administered by SOCSOC, employers will receive RM600 for each worker earning RM4,000 and below for a time frame set by the government.

WSP 3.0 was again introduced by the Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin this year following the nationwide MCO, except for Sarawak which is placed under CMCO.

The subsidy was initially targeted to sectors hard-hit by the COVID-19 pandemic namely tourism and retail sectors but then extended to employers for all sectors operating within states under MCO.

The Sarawak Business Federation is an umbrella body that is represented by 13 chambers of commerce that wholly represent approximately 10,000 registered businesses operations in Sarawak.

It is appealing to the government to extend the WSP 3.0 programme to Sarawak employers operating outside the MCO areas.

**MINISTRY OF ENTREPRENEUR DEVELOPMENT AND
COOPERATIVES**