

[The Star Online](#) > Nation

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'Report work-related ailments to DOSH'

PETALING JAYA: Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam has called on medical professionals to report cases of work-related ailments to the Department of Occupational Safety (DOSH).

He said this was necessary so that the affected workers could be eligible to claim benefits from the relevant agencies.

"If a worker who suffers from asthma because of conditions at work, he can be eligible to claim from Socso if his case is reported by the medical professional," he told reporters after giving a keynote address at a TNB safety seminar for top management here yesterday.

Dr Subramaniam said DOSH and the National Institute of Occupational Safety (NIOSH) had also undertaken several programmes and briefings for medical professionals on the need to report work-related diseases.

"We hope we will be able to get a real picture of the situation in the country in future."

He said some of the medical professionals did not know that they had to report work-related ailments to DOSH.

Dr Subramaniam also said that wages in the country have to go up as the country could not be dependent on labour-intensive industries anymore.

"We have to transform ourselves into capital-driven technology sectors, with emphasis on skilled workforce," he said.

Dr Subramaniam said he had raised the low-wage issue with the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) and the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM).

"I have asked the MEF to come out with guidelines on wages for the various sectors and we could use it to raise salaries," he said, adding that over 350,000 to 400,000 skilled Malaysian workers had left the country to work in Singapore due to low wages.