

Employers need more time for new budget



Pic by Muhd Amin Naharul

The govt should give enough time between 3 and 4 years for us to prepare for the eventuality of any revision in policies, says Shamsuddin

FROM P1 **Training levy**

Under the regulations set by LAM, a registered architect or graduate architect is required to undergo a continuous professional development (CPD) programme approved by LAM.

"Every year, each registered architect needs to collect a minimum of 10 CPD points before he or she is allowed to renew the annual registration," Ezumi said in a statement yesterday.

This, he added, is to ensure architects exercise reasonable standard of skill and diligence that is accepted by the profession as stipulated by the Code of Conduct under the Architects Rules 1996.

"We hope the relevant stakeholders will take this matter into consideration, and shall not impose compulsory HRD levy on professional firms, including Architectural Consultancy Practices," said Ezumi Harzani.

Yesterday, HRDF CEO Datuk CM Vignaesvaran Jeyandran said in a report by *The Malaysian Reserve (TMR)* that the government's training arm is eyeing to impose levy on all employers, except for the banking, finance and construction sectors.

The expansion would result in over nine million contributors to HRDF.

Currently, eligible employers are subject to compulsory registration and a 1% HRD levy for each employee based on the monthly wages

of the employee.

HRDF has currently collected about RM700 million in the levy from 63 subsectors and the fund is expected to be doubled should the proposal materialise.

TMR had previously reported that Malaysian employers are currently already in the losing side of doing business.

Last month, employers had to fork out 0.2% from their wage budget for the Employment Insurance Scheme contributions.

This is further dampened by speculations over a revision of minimum wage expected to be announced by the government in mid-2018.

Shamsuddin said employers using migrant workers are already burdened with the cost of the foreign worker levy that resulted in an approximate increase of 15.4% in overall cost.

He said the government's decision to tax employers will dampen the industries' growth.

"Employers will need time to prepare for their own budget and projection, without counting in policy revisions.

"The government should give enough time between three and four years for us to prepare for the eventuality of any revision in policies," he said, adding that otherwise companies will have no choice, but to cut cost or pass it to the consumers.