

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**HRD Corp Launches Forum on  
National Action Plan on Forced Labour**

Forum discussed issues and challenges on forced labour and the government's commitment to address it

**Seberang Jaya, 10 March 2022** — The Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) organised the first of its National Forum Series, titled National Action Plan on Forced Labour as part of its Open Day, today.

The forum, which was officiated by and featured a keynote address by YB Datuk Seri M. Saravanan, Minister of Human Resources, discussed the causes and severity of forced labour in Malaysia, particularly amongst foreign workers, and the roles that every party, from the government, academia, industry players, civil society organisations and the public to address it.

YB Datuk Hajah Zuraida Kamaruddin, Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities was also in attendance, and acted as a panellist during the forum, together with Tom Shepperd, political counsellor for the British High Commission, Daniel Wright, Deputy Political Counselor, United States Embassy, Arulkumar Singaraveloo Co-Founder of the Malaysia HR Forum & Social Compliance Malaysia, Josh Hong from the International Labour Organization (ILO) and Khai Yau Chua, Senior Programme Manager for the Responsible Business Alliance (RBA). The session was moderated by Professor Datuk Dr. Denison Jayasooria, Head of Secretariat Malaysia, Co-Chair Civil Society Organisation Malaysia on Sustainable Development Goals.

Speaking at the event, YB Datuk Seri M. Saravanan, Minister of Human Resources, said “Given that forced labour falls under the purview of the Ministry of Human Resources, I have made it my personal commitment to address this issue immediately. This includes ratifying the 2014 Protocol to the ILO’s Forced Labour Convention, 1930, and adhering to the 11 indicators outlined by the ILO in the convention, which includes providing workers with a conducive living environment. To that end, the Ministry has also made it mandatory for employers looking to employ migrant workers to comply fully with the Workers’ Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodation and Amenities Act 1990 (Act 446).”

YB Datuk Seri M. Saravanan added that as the Chairman of the Special Committee to Study Labour Trafficking under the Anti-Human Trafficking and Anti-Migrant Smuggling Council, he has instructed the Ministry to work with relevant parties to implement the necessary measures to combat the problem. These include other government ministries and agencies, employer association such as the Malaysian Employer Federation (MEF) and Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC), private sector industry players academia, non-profit and civil society organisations as well as the public.

The forum also discussed the Ministry of Human Resources National Action Plan on Forced Labour (2021-2025) that was launched last year, particularly its four strategic goals to combat forced labour completely in the next five years.

The forum was organised in conjunction with HRD Corp Open Day 2022 which was held on 10-11 March 2022 in Seberang Jaya, Penang. The two-day event featured a series of activities designed to provide updates on HRD Corp's latest initiatives and service offerings to its trainers, training providers, and as well as its registered employers and engage with members of the public in meeting their employment and income generating needs.

Members of the public were also invited to attend the Career Fair, where over 5,000 jobs from 36 leading employers in the Northern Region were up for grabs through a series of open interviews.

For more information, please visit [www.hrdcorp.gov.my/openday](http://www.hrdcorp.gov.my/openday).

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### **About Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp):**

Human Resource Development Corporation (HRD Corp) was established in 1993 as the Human Resources Development Council. It was incorporated into Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad through the enactment of the Pembangunan Sumber Manusia Berhad Act 2001.

As an agency under the Ministry of Human Resources, it is responsible for the collection of levy from key industries and the disbursement of training grants to registered employers through its internal mechanics known as the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF).

In April 2021, HRDF became HRD Corp. The name change is a reflection of its new responsibilities, directions and mission. These include expanding its workforce upskilling and reskilling efforts to all Malaysian employers and individuals; and providing income-generating opportunities to all communities in need.

This transformation is in line with HRD Corp's ambition of driving Malaysia's talent development aspirations for the long term.

For more information, visit our website – [www.hrdcorp.gov.my](http://www.hrdcorp.gov.my).