



MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

MEDIA RELEASE

RESPONSE ON THE TELEGRAPH NEWS ARTICLE “SHIMANO BIKE PARTS MADE BY MODERN SLAVES’ SOLD TO COMMUTERS”

The Ministry of Human Resources asserts that it will not compromise on any practices related to forced labour or modern slavery as alleged in the Telegraph article. Recognizing forced labour as a serious human rights issue, Malaysia has taken significant steps, including ratifying the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention and implementing the **National Action Plan on Forced Labour (2021-2025)**.

The Department of Labour Peninsular Malaysia, under the Ministry of Human Resources, has investigated Kwang Li Industry Sdn. Bhd., which is allegedly involved in forced labour practices. The investigation found violations of the **Employment Act 1955 [Act 265]** and **Employees’ Minimum Standards of Housing, Accommodations, and Amenities Act 1990 [Act 446]**. A total of six investigation papers have been opened under **section 24, Act 265** for the offense of unlawful wage deductions without the permission of the Director General and **section 60K, Act 265** for failure to obtain prior approval from the Director General before applying for foreign workers. Furthermore, two investigation papers were opened under **section 24D, Act 446** for failing to obtain a Certificate of Accommodation from the Director General.

On the issue of the compensation claimed by Worldways Manpower Ltd, the Ministry states that this is beyond its jurisdiction and should be resolved by the company and the employment agency.

Employers are urged to comply with all enforced acts, and enforcement activities will continue to be carried out by all departments and agencies under the Ministry. The aim is to ensure that the welfare of workers is preserved, and practices of forced labour are consistently addressed effectively for the harmony of the country's workforce.

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