



MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES

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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES COLLABORATES WITH THE EARTHWORM FOUNDATION TO LAUNCH A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR INDUSTRIES TO #GETITRIGHT ON THEIR WORKFORCE

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**KUALA LUMPUR, 5 DECEMBER 2023** - The Minister of Human Resources, V. Sivakumar launched a practical guide for the palm oil industry and other sectors aimed at fostering better workforce practices, for the industry to #GetItRight. Over 100 attendees, representing government institutions, companies, and non-profit sectors, convened for the launch event, showcasing a collective commitment to combat forced labour and child labour.

In recent years, the presence of forced labour has regrettably impacted businesses and the nation's global reputation. This challenge, particularly affecting migrant workers due to Malaysia's reliance on labor-intensive sectors, led to the development of the National Action Plan on Forced Labour (NAPFL) by the government.

"The NAPFL 2021-2025 outlines a course of action comprising four strategic goals, developed in line with the National Action Plan on Anti-Trafficking in Persons 2021-2025 (NAPTIP 3.0)," said the Minister of Human Resources, V. Sivakumar.

While the national action plan and associated regulations signify a positive shift towards improved employment practices, their effective implementation and compliance require time. In response, Earthworm Foundation, a global non-profit that partners with the private, government, community and civil society sectors to create solutions to environmental and social challenges in supply chains, developed practical guidelines to aid industry compliance with the NAPFL.

“In collaboration with the Ministry of Human Resources and supported by the Ministry of Plantation and Commodities, Earthworm Foundation developed the #GetItRight booklet. It provides insights into compliance benefits, risks of non-compliance, and methods to prevent forced and child labour in business practices,” explained Quek Karl Yen, Earthworm Foundation’s Regional Director for Southeast Asia.

Minister V. Sivakumar urged the private sectors to fully optimize the guideline, “Everyone within the supply chain has a role to play in promoting and developing better labour practices. It is my hope that the #GetItRight guideline booklet will highlight this shared responsibility and explain the roles in addressing forced labour and helping to promote decent work,” he said.

The launch event also featured sharing sessions from speakers from International Labour Organization (ILO), palm oil refineries, company, and brands. They provided practical examples and insights into best practices for an improved workforce, citing how these strategies benefited them in the short and long term.

The commitment showcased during the launch event instills optimism towards eliminating forced and child labour in all forms in Malaysia by 2030. Together, we can #GetItRight. The #GetItRight booklet is available in English, Bahasa Melayu, and Chinese. More information and a complementary copy of the booklet can be accessed via [s.id/GetItRight](https://s.id/GetItRight).

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