

MEF urges companies to grant paid time off for workers to vote in GE15

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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 21 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) has urged companies to grant paid time off to enable employees to cast their votes on polling day of the 15th General Election (GE15).

MEF president Datuk Syed Hussain Syed Husman said this would apply to employers who observe Nov 19, 2022, as a working day or have a rota or shift system in place.

“Employees who are registered voters and scheduled to work during the day on 12-hour shifts should be given reasonable time off to cast their votes on polling day which falls on Nov 19,” he said

in a statement today.

Syed Hussain also said there is no requirement for employers that observe Nov 19 as an off day or rest day to provide additional time off.

He explained that there may be occasions where an employee needs to cast his/her vote at an outstation polling centre and Nov 19 is a normal working day for the said employee, hence, it is reasonable for the company to require such an employee to apply for annual leave/unpaid leave for the said purpose.

Syed Hussain added that reasonable time off should also be granted to employees to enable them to cast their postal votes on Nov 15, 2022.

He viewed it as a fair and reasonable obligation imposed on employers to ensure that all employees are afforded a reasonable opportunity to vote.

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