

NEWS CLIPPING – PRESS

CLIENT:	UBM MALAYSIA		
PUBLICATION:	NEW STRAITS TIMES	SECTION:	NEWS
DATE:	THURSDAY, 20 JUNE 2019	PAGE NO.:	11
CIRCULATION:	32,064	FREQUENCY:	DAILY
HEADLINE:	MAKE SAFETY EQUIPMENT AFFORDABLE		

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

'MAKE SAFETY EQUIPMENT AFFORDABLE'

Grant tax rebate to encourage employers to get equipment, says NIOSH chairman

KUALA LUMPUR

THE government should introduce tax rebates and other incentives for the import and manufacturing of quality and smart personal protective equipment (PPE) to encourage more employers to protect their workers.

National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said, at a time when Malaysia was undergoing rapid development, greater attention must be given to safety at work and the use of high-quality and advanced PPE.

"I would like to propose to the government to consider granting tax rebate for imported PPE to make it more affordable and encourage employers to acquire quality PPE for their employees.

"A tax rebate for PPE will be an incentive to help promote safety and health at the workplace," he said after launching the 3M Malaysia safety products in conjunction with the ongoing 17th Asian Oil, Gas and Petroleum Engineering Exhibition 2019 at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre.

Present was 3M Malaysia general manager G.T. Lim.

Lee said the government should also provide incentives to importers and local manufacturers who produce quality and smart PPE, including those which incorporated the latest technology such as high-accuracy sensor, global positioning system and radio frequency identification.

"Some companies have already introduced PPE that uses lightweight fabrics or cooling system which could help keep workers more comfortable when doing their jobs



National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health chairman Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye (right) and 3M Malaysia general manager G.T. Lim during the launch of 3M Malaysia safety products in conjunction with the ongoing 17th Asian Oil, Gas and Petroleum Engineering Exhibition at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre. PIC BY SALHANI IBRAHIM.

under scorching sun," he said.

Under a collaboration with 3M Malaysia, Lee said NIOSH had also helped distribute suitable respirators to Johor Relief Organisation during the Sungai Kim Kim incident in Pasir Gudang in March.

He said knowledge of PPE was key to the promotion of safer work culture. This, he said, could help reduce occupational hazards.

He said PPE was designed to protect workers from workplace injuries or illnesses resulting from contact with chemical, radiological, physical or other hazards. They include safety goggles, coveralls, gloves, vests, earplugs, respirators and safety shoes.

"PPE is essential and are generally the last line of defence after engineering and administrative controls have failed to reduce employees' exposure to hazards.

"The Occupational Safety and Health Act 1994 requires the use of PPE to reduce employees' exposure to hazards at the workplace," he added.

However, Lee said employers had complained about the high price of imported and advanced PPE, forcing many to buying cheaper products with lower quality, exposing their employees to occupational injuries and diseases.

Lee hoped that employers would not compromise on the quality of PPE as they must adhere to the guidelines given by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health or meet the Sirim's standards requirement to ensure the quality of such products.

Under the law, it is the responsibility of employers to provide training and PPE while for employees, it is their responsibility to wear them.