

RM423M IN PERKESO PAYMENTS FROZEN DUE TO FALSE CLAIMS

Move to suspend payouts based on monitoring by anti-fraud division, says CEO

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THE Social Security Organisation (Perkeso) has suspended RM423 million in payments for the Employment Recruitment Incentives Programme (PenjanaKerjaya) due to false claims by employers and training providers nationwide under Op Hire.

It was launched last Wednesday after the Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission (MACC) and Perkeso reviewed gathered information on PenjanaKerjaya money beneficiaries since May and found that certain employers had made false claims and misappropriated these funds.

Perkeso chief executive officer Datuk Seri Dr Mohammed Azman Aziz Mohammed said Perkeso frowned upon the malpractice issue because the financial assis-

tance was to help those who qualified, according to the requirements and procedures.

"The action to suspend the payment was made based on data analysis and continuous monitoring by Perkeso's Anti-Fraud, Ethics and Integrity Division (AFEI).

"AFEI works closely with the Finance Division and Perkeso's Employment Insurance System Office to ensure that each application is properly assessed before payment is made to those qualified for it," he said.

Azman said up to yesterday, Socso had provided RM2.34 billion to employers and employees

under the PenjanaKerjaya programme, involving 45,379 employers to place 327,789 jobseekers.

Perkeso stressed on the need for employers to be honest and have integrity when submitting applications for government assistance programmes, including the PenjanaKerjaya programme.

"Any employer who has misused the PenjanaKerjaya funds or who has submitted an application without following the rules must come forward and make a voluntary repayment or contact Perkeso to solve this problem before action is taken," Azman said.