

Headline	274 accidents involving agriculture, fisheries, forestry sectors recorded		
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## 274 accidents involving agriculture, fisheries, forestry sectors recorded

**KOTA KINABALU:** Preventive culture should be ingrained in every workplace to avoid occupational safety and health hazards.

Instead of waiting to act in the wake of an accident, employers and employees alike should take preventive measures to avoid those circumstances altogether, said Assistant Human Resource Minister Dato' Mahfuz Omar.

"The government wishes to make the workplace, especially in the agriculture, fishery and forestry departments, a safe and healthy environment to protect employees," he said.

Mahfuz said this at the Occupational Safety and Health Seminar in the Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry Industries 2019, yesterday.

He said the seminar was to increase awareness on safety and health aspects in the workplace, especially in the three specified industries, as they are main contributors to State revenue and carry a high risk of workplace accidents.

Up to May 2019, a total of 274 cases of workplace accidents were recorded in the three industries, comprising 10 cases involving death, and another 33 cases with investigations underway for illness and poisoning.

Meanwhile, the rate of workplace accidents decreased in 2018 to 2.40 out of 1,000 employees, from 2.93 out of 1,000 employees in 2017. Cases involving death in 2018 also



Mahfuz (fourth right) with other invited guests and participants of the Occupational Safety and Health Seminar in the Agriculture, Fishery and Forestry Industries 2019.

declined to 4.14 out of 1,000 employees, from 4.90 out of 1,000 employees in 2017.

Mahfuz, who is also chairman of the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health, said the decline was due to new methods employed by the Department of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH), which, among others, included a more comprehensive computation method for accident rate.

The reduced accident rate also shows increased awareness among employers and employees of preventive culture in the workplace, coupled with proactive programmes and initiatives by DOSH and other

stakeholders.

"The concept of self-regulation is important to be understood and implemented at the workplace, as it concerns involvement and negotiation between employer and employee.

"Both parties need to identify dangers at the workplace and thereafter conduct risk analysis, which is most important in effective risk management. DOSH had also taken the initiative to organise 'Workplace Accident-free Week,' to be held from July 7-13, in conjunction with the National Occupational Safety and Health Week.

"I've been informed that the Workplace Accident-free Week has already received participation of almost 955 workplaces nationwide, involving almost 390,000 employees and employers," said Mahfuz.

In addition, an increase in registered occupational safety and health practitioners were recorded at 57,445 in 2018, while 39 institutions of higher education offered relevant courses and 94 training centres were registered offering similar courses at the certificate level for 16 competency fields, whereas 2,248 coordinators were registered nationwide.