

EPF bars 249 directors from leaving the country

PETALING JAYA: The Employees Provident Fund has barred 249 company directors from leaving the country unless they settle EPF contribution arrears first.

EPF head of corporate affairs Nik Affendi Jaafar said it was part of an enforcement exercise to safeguard the retirement well-being of members.

"We will not hesitate to take firm action against employers who fail to remit their employees' monthly EPF contributions," he said in a statement yesterday.

Nik Affendi said the names of the directors were submitted to the Immigration Department between April and June this year.

"In the same period, 114 errant employers were fined a total of RM162,200 under Section 43(2) of the EPF Act 1991 while 270 civil suits and 843 criminal cases were filed against

employers who defaulted on their employees' monthly EPF contributions," he said.

He said employers were usually allowed by the court to settle the contribution arrears by instalments, but they would be monitored closely to ensure the outstanding amounts were paid in full.

Nik Affendi also urged members to monitor their EPF accounts to make sure their correct monthly contributions were remitted on time.

"Members who find discrepancies in their EPF accounts should refer to their employers or report to the EPF immediately by contacting the EPF call centre during working hours at 03-8922 6000.

"They can also submit their queries online via myEPF website at <http://enquiry.kwsp.gov.my>," he said.