

EMPLOYMENT

Ministry to aid laid-off media staff

POST REPORTERS

The Ministry of Labour is stepping in to assist JSL Global Media Co workers who were abruptly laid off without fair compensation, according to Labour Minister Suchart Chomklin.

A total of 89 out of 130 employees were laid off on Friday, Mr Suchart said, citing information obtained from Bangkok's Labour Protection and Welfare Office.

Each worker was offered only 16% of the financial compensation they are entitled to receive under the Labour Law, he said.

Upon learning of the layoffs, Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha instructed the ministry to step in to help the affected workers, he said.

"A total of 79 laid-off workers have refused to accept the 16% compensation offered by their former employer and are now determined to fight for full compensation," he said.

The company cited pressure from overwhelming debt as the reason to terminate the employment of these workers, he said.

According to a source from JSL Global Media's human resources department who requested anonymity, only 5 million baht was approved by the company for the compensation when it actually requires 31 million baht.

The department suggested that the company at least agree to pay the full sum, even in instalments, but the company insisted on paying the reduced amount, the source said.

Buppha Ruangsut, deputy permanent secretary for labour, assigned by Mr Suchart to coordinate assistance for the laid-off workers, said she will hold a meeting with them to discuss their rights and what can be done to help.

Ms Buppha said these workers will be assisted in submitting requests for unemployment allowances.