

A minimum wage for all sectors better

Borneo Post July 8, 2009

By Suriani Andokong, Christy Chok, Suraidah Roslan and Alen Kee

KOTA KINABALU: A minimum wage should be set for employees in all sectors and not just some sectors.

This is the personal view of Datuk Wong Khen Thau, President of the Federation of Sabah Manufacturers.

Wong said it is a good idea for the government to set a minimum wage for employees but it should not be restricted to the four sectors, namely hospitality, textile, electronic and safety.

He said it would be better to have a minimum wage for all sectors so that no one would have reasons to feel left out and unhappy.

He added that factors such as the cost of living and welfare of employees should be taken into account in deciding such a wage.

Wong was asked to comment on the statement on Monday by Human Resource Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam that the government has set a minimum wage for employees in the four sectors and will announce it soon.

Datuk Patrick Sindu, President of Consumers

YOUR OPINIONS MATTER

SHARE YOUR VIEWS WITH US ON THE TOPIC

High business risk in east coast

Call Suraidah Roslan 088-318991,
SMS to 016-8381447, Fax: 088-213991 or
Email your views to borneopostkk@yahoo.com

Association of Sabah (CASH), said the government should take into account the current wages in the four sectors, rising cost of living and currency value before announcing the minimum wage.

He said low wage earners, who have been suffering in silence for years, deserve to be paid higher than their existing wages which are barely enough to provide for a hand-to-mouth existence.

Civil servant Dicky Chan, 32, said the setting of a minimum wage for employees in the hospitality, textile, electronic and safety sectors is a positive move.

He said the wage level should be considered

carefully taking into account the cost of living to ensure all workers are earning a decent pay, which is enough to meet their basic needs.

A monthly wage of RM400 to RM500 is too low in a place like Tawau where the cost of living is high, he added.

Elizabeth, a hotel employee, said it is high time for the government to set a minimum wage to help ensure bosses reward their employees more equitably.

She said the measure is especially important in Sabah where the cost of living is among the highest in the country and the wages among the lowest.

Another hotel employee, Jonathan Deros said it is about time a minimum

wage be set especially for hotel employees who play a vital part in the tourism industry.

"It is good to hear the government has set a minimum wage for us as the cost of living has escalated and it's been hard to make ends meet," he said.

He said the government should not only look into certain sectors but overall, as wages in many other sectors need review.

Shop assistant Azrene Yusuf said it is good to see more sectors getting the minimum wage, and she hoped the government would also consider a minimum wage for shop assistants as they are among the lowest paid workers in Sabah.

She claimed that most of them are getting less than RM300 a month and there are those who get less than RM200.

"To be fair, the government should study every kind of employment and set a minimum wage due to the rising cost of living," Azrene said.

She said employees' wages should increase in tandem with the rising cost of living, otherwise the locals would shun the low income jobs, thus making the country more dependent on foreign labour.