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Zainal-Wages

MTUC HOPEFUL OF MINIMUM WAGE SCHEME UPON ECONOMIC RECOVERY

KUALA TERENGGANU, Dec 17 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) is hopeful that the government will introduce a minimum wage scheme for all employment sectors in the country after the economy recovered

Its president Senator Zainal Rampak said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, in a meeting with the union last August, had assured that the proposed scheme could be introduced once the economy had fully recovered to protect workers' interests and help them cope with the soaring living costs.

"In fact, Dr Mahathir himself suggested a minimum salary of RM1,200 but said the scheme cannot be implemented now due to the economic downturn," he told reporters after opening the Third Peninsular Malaysia National Health Assistants' Union annual general meeting here today.

The MTUC had since two years ago proposed to the government to fix a minimum salary of RM600 for Malaysian workers.

Minimum wage schemes had long been implemented in developed countries like in the United States, Europe and Japan. The wages differed according to the sectors.

Zainal also said it was acknowledged at an International Labour Organisation (ILO) conference on job expertise in Bangkok recently that Malaysia's skills training was of a higher standard than in India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and other Asia-Pacific countries.

He said the conference also recognised that Malaysia's education standard had attained a commendable level and in fact, was accepted as among the best in the Asia-Pacific region along with Japan.

He urged the government to set up more skills training institutes to train more skilled personnel to meet the demand of the country's rapidly-growing industrial sector.

-- BERNAMA

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