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Zainal confident of minimal wage structure's introduction

KUALA TERENGGANU, Thurs. - Malaysian Trades Union Congress president senator Zainal Rampak is confident the country will introduce its own fixed minimal wage structure accepted by all sectors once the country's economy recovers fully.

The MTUC president said he met Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on Aug 7 to discuss the matter further.

The Prime Minister had shown interest in the issue and even suggested a minimal monthly wage of RM1,200, he said.

He said the current high cost of living had made it necessary for employers to pay fair wages.

"The MTUC had forwarded the minimal wages idea two years ago where we proposed RM600 per month as the basis for all sectors.

"However, the Government dismissed the proposal on grounds it was not the right time to have such a yardstick," he said.

The minimal wage system would create industrial peace in general and propel workers to work extra hard so the economy could quickly recover, he said after launching the Third Biannual National Health Assistant Administrative Union at the Midtown Hotel.

To a question, he said the country's standard of education was recognised by many international employers including Japan and European countries, thus the standard of education could justify the minimal wage structure.

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