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Estate workers may all be paid monthly salaries

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - Since last month, more than 1,500 workers in the 15 estates owned by the National Land Finance Co-operative Society Ltd were paid monthly salaries instead of daily wages, MIC president Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said.

This new salary mode is being put on trial before the system is implemented nationwide.

He said the new salary mode was discussed at the Cabinet meeting yesterday and the Human Resources Ministry was asked to consider implementing it.

"However Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad proposed a six-month trial period before implementing the system," said Samy Vellu, who is Works Minister, after chairing the MIC's central working committee meeting here today.

"We will wait for the progress report and rectify any shortcomings encountered before the monthly salary system is implemented nationwide," he said.

It has been reported that estate workers currently earn a daily wage that amount to between RM260 and RM312 a month. This is below the RM450 poverty line set by the government.

Samy Vellu also said the Health Ministry had been asked, during the Cabinet meeting, to come up with a standard examination format for students who had completed their medical studies in unrecognised colleges or universities overseas.

At present these students sit for the examinations set by Universiti Malaya, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia and Universiti Sains Malaysia but their syllabus are not the same.

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