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Wage-Minimum

MTUC WANTS GOVT TO FIX MINIMUM WAGE AT RM1,200 A MONTH

KOTA BAHARU, Aug 29 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) wants the government to implement the RM1,200 a month minimum wage as promised now that the country has emerged from the economic doldrums.

MTUC president senator Zainal Rampak said today Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had promised last August that if the economy recovered the minimum wage would be fixed at RM1,200.

He said the MTUC was proud of the government's success in turning the economy around by recording a Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth of 4.1 per cent in the second quarter this year.

Following this, the MTUC had sent a memorandum dated Aug 12 to the prime minister asking, among other things, that the government keep its promise to implement the minimum wage system, he told reporters after opening an MTUC/Socso course on workers' safety and health, here.

He said the minimum wage for workers now was not fixed with some non-unionised companies paying a minimum wage of between RM200 and RM400 a month.

The memorandum also touched on the proposal to extend the retirement age from the current 55 to 60 years.

"We hope that the prime minister will make time to meet MTUC leaders to discuss the memorandum, he added.

Zainal also urged employers to recognise workers unions within three months of their establishment instead of taking up to two years as was done now.

The recognition was important so that the unions could negotiate collective agreements with employers should there be grouses from the workers, he said, adding that the MTUC felt that the Human Resources Ministry should take the issue seriously.

Zainal also said that the MTUC now had 750,000 members from 170 affiliated unions and a membership drive was underway, especially in the east coast states where the response was poor.

-- BERNAMA

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