

04 JUNE 2000

Fong-Salary

POLICE REPORT: MINISTRY READY TO COOPERATE WITH POLICE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 4 (Bernama) -- The Human Resource Ministry will fully cooperate with the police in any investigation into claims that it has been deliberately delaying the implementation of monthly wages for estate workers.

Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said this today when asked to comment on the move to lodge a police report against his ministry on the matter.

He said the government had agreed in principle to the monthly wages for estate workers as announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad recently.

"The problem now is arriving at a monthly salary scheme structure that will be in the best interests of estate workers and also which will convince employers that it will not affect the competitive edge of the plantation sector," said Dr Fong after attending the wedding of Cuepacs Secretary General Abdul Rahman Manan's daughter here.

He said the Universiti Malaya special research committee appointed in March was in the final stages of evaluating the present payment system.

Its proposal, taking into account the monthly basic wage, would be submitted to the ministry at the end of this month before being tabled before the Cabinet, Dr Fong said.

"Soon after the Cabinet had approved the proposals, I will meet the National Union of Plantation Workers (NUPW) and the Malayan Agricultural Producers Association (Mapa) to convince them that this is the best under the circumstances."

On the minimum wage, Dr Fong said he had met with the MTUC and explained to them that the government had never been against the minimum wage concept.

He said in light of this the ministry had activated the Minimum Wage Council.

Among the VIP guests at the wedding were Senate President Tan Sri Mohamed Yaacob, Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Tan Sri Bernard Dompok and the Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

-- BERNAMA

NHA AAM