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Samy-Wages

RUBBER TAPPERS SHOULD NOT GET LESS THAN HARVESTERS, SAYS SAMY

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 20 (Bernama) -- The Human Resources Ministry should ensure rubber tappers and rubber factory workers receive not less than RM325 in minimum monthly wages.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu said he briefed Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the minimum benchmark wages for rubber estate workers which is still unresolved.

A minimum monthly wage of RM325 has been approved for oil palm harvesters.

"Dr Mahathir is sympathetic towards the estate workers' cause," he told reporters after receiving RM222,500 in cash and kind from United Engineers Malaysia (UEM) Group of Companies and the Malaysian Indians Metals and Old Goods Association for the Gujarat Earthquake Fund, at his office here today.

Samy raised the monthly wage issue for rubber estate workers with the Human Resources Minister, Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn last week.

The Human Resources Ministry, a fortnight ago, concluded the monthly wage issue for oil palm harvesters after successful negotiations with the Malaysian Agricultural Producers' Association (MAPA) and the National Union of Plantation Workers (NUPW).

Negotiations between MAPA, NUPW and the Human Resources Ministry over monthly wages for rubber estate workers is not expected to be resolved overnight, said Samy.

He also said that Dr Mahathir had asked Fong to submit a report on the issue and form a committee to study the matter.

Several issues need to be considered before an agreement on monthly wages can be reached between MAPA and NUPW for rubber estate workers.

Samy also hit out at the latest Aliran issue, a non-governmental organisation magazine, which accused him of not doing enough for the Indian community.

"The magazine says the present situation facing the Indian community here is because of MIC. Their article was a bookload of accusation against MIC," he said.

Samy, who is MIC President, said Aliran is a one-sided magazine which did not propagate the truth but claimed to fight for justice.

-- BERNAMA

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