

## **Contradictions In Pakatan's Position On Minimum Wage**

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I wish to alert that all this while, DAP has demanded that minimum wage be fixed at RM1,000/= and above. The Rocket had earlier also proposed to reduce the number of civil servants in the country by 40% but this proposal was ultimately rejected by PAS and PKR in the Pakatan Rakyat coalition which obviously shows that the 3 Pakatan coalition parties never hold a unanimous stand in any of their policies whatsoever. It also shown that DAP is fond of giving empty promises and has never delivered on whatever they have said or proposed.

I would like to suggest that if what DAP proposes is viable and if the Rocket is able to keep to their words, then DAP should firstly recommend that their proposals be implemented in Pakatan-controlled states of Selangor, Kedah, Kelantan and Penang. At least they should help implement their own proposal of minimum wage in their government linked companies (GLC) or government linked Investment companies (GLIC). However, nothing has been done so far as of todate.

According to Dr S. Subramaniam, the Minister of Human Resources, he said that the government intends to fix the minimum wage between RM800/= to RM1,000/= which would benefit 3.2 million employees in the private sector. However, the Malaysian Employers Federation hold the opinion that fixing the minimum wage at RM1,000/= will definitely add financial burden to them.

### **Retain employee benefits**

The MCA Young Professionals Bureau is of the view that fixing the minimum wage at RM800/= is a bit too low as the poverty line in Peninsular Malaysia is RM720/=:, whereas in Sabah, it is RM780/= and in Sarawak, it is RM760/= respectively. Thus, it will be more appropriate if minimum wage is to be fixed at RM900/=. It is recommended that even by having such a minimum wage, other employee benefits should remain unchanged.

### **Pakatan must get their act in order on minimum wage**

I wish to point out that Pakatan's Buku Jingga said it "strives to provide a minimum household income of RM4,000/= per month." But on the other hand, Pakatan Members of Parliament had suggested fixing the minimum income from between RM1000/= to RM1,200/=. Based on this calculation, if we were to add the total income of both the husband and wife, Pakatan's target of RM4,000/= as stipulated by them would not be attainable. Thus, we are of the opinion that Pakatan should make their strategy clearer so as to help the rakyat achieve the said objective.

In this context, if it were to attain Pakatan's objective, this would mean that our country has to bear a RM93 billion burden which is half of the national revenue as government needs to top up the income of each household to reach RM4,000/=. Such a scenario would certainly lead our nation to bankruptcy.

It is beneficial to set a minimum wage. However, this should depend on the financial capabilities of the respective employers as different sectors vary from one to another.

### **Minimum wage boosts motivation**

I would also like to highlight that that since minimum wage for plantation workers in Labis had been revised from RM350/= to RM850/=:, employers are of the opinion that work commitments and attitudes of the workers have correspondingly been improved as well.

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