

'Re-look minimum wage to battle corruption'

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KUALA LUMPUR: The government has been urged to review the minimum wage of the public services support group as a means to combat corruption.

Bernama chairman Datuk Mohd Annuar Zaini said low income and returns made raising families a burden and might encourage government officers to accept bribes for survival's sake.

"The low pay is inadequate for city living.

"To survive, they will have to get a second job on a part-time basis or find the opportunity to abuse their power in the public service," he said at the seminar.

Annuar said the government should accept this fact and find a holistic solution to the problem.

He said the second form of corruption which had tarnished the public service was that some officers with au-

thority chose to live beyond their means, and this could only be resolved by firm government action.

Annuar said there should be more role models from the ranks of senior officers and named some who could be emulated.

"This country needs more (Tan Sri Mohd) Bakri Omar, the former Inspector-General of Police and current IGP Tan Sri Musa Hassan."

He also said the media should be bold in exposing shortcomings.

Annuar earlier described Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi as the new skipper of a ship taking the nation into its 50th anniversary of independence.

"The journey to a new destination calls for a new crew with the vision and mindset similar to that of the new skipper." — Bernama