

'Syed Saddiq's Foodpanda remark not govt's stand'

PM: The matter was not discussed in Cabinet

KUALA LUMPUR: The remarks made by minister Syed Saddiq Abdul Rahman that "consumers should take down arrogant corporations just as they can vote out elected representatives" is his own opinion, says Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"He did not discuss it in Cabinet. That is not the government's stand. Maybe he has a reason for that statement," Dr Mahathir said of Syed Saddiq's tweet which sparked a boycott campaign against Foodpanda.

In his tweet yesterday, the Youth and Sports Minister also said that: "Arrogance is not the solution. Only support corporations which are fair to workers and consumers."

Under the new scheme implemented outside the Klang Valley, which covered 30% of more than 13,000 riders nationwide, the hourly rate has been removed but payment per order has been increased to between RM4.50 and RM7, compared with between RM3 and RM5 previously.

It said that initial data gathered after the implementation of the scheme on Sept 30 showed that a good proportion of the riders are earning more than before.



Foodpanda said it will stick with its new payment scheme for its riders outside the Klang Valley for four more weeks.

Earlier this month, Foodpanda delivery riders had gone on strike against the new pay scheme that was implemented for riders outside the Klang Valley since Sept 30.

Meanwhile, on social media, people have voiced out their dissatisfaction over Syed Saddiq's tweet on Foodpanda.

Shahlan Bin Sabari (@BinSabari) noted that the government should not be involved in a company's business.

"They (companies) have their own strategies and are free to decide their business direction.

"Any coercion against companies will affect the ease of doing business in Malaysia ... it is not good for the economy," he tweeted.

Another Twitter user peter (@petre_ikato) also pointed out that the issue faced by the Foodpanda workers was due to the existing laws, which do not protect the current food delivery service riders.

"Whatever the operator does is not wrong according to the current laws. We need new laws to protect workers in this new gig economy," he wrote.

Effi Saharudin (@10biefend) agreed with @petre_ikato, noting that the existing labour laws need to be amended.

Cybersandhu (@napoleontheONE) said that "sudden tantrums are worthless".

"Know your limits and proceed with the consultation process," he tweeted.

Aside from the tweets, the hashtags #boycottfoodpanda, #DeleteFoodpanda and #UninstallFoodpanda went viral on social media.

Individuals uploaded screenshots of them deleting their Foodpanda apps on their smartphones in solidarity with the riders.