

'NO MINIMUM WAGE U-TURN'

PM gives the assurance move will take effect on May 1 despite appeals, calls for postponement

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob has pledged that there will be no U-turns by the government over its decision on the RM1,500 minimum wage, which comes into effect on May 1.

He said the new minimum wage would proceed despite suggestions and appeals by various quarters for it to be postponed.

He said the government remained committed to the move and gave its guarantee that the new minimum wage would be implemented as announced.

"I would, once again, like to give the assurance that as announced, the RM1,500 minimum wage for workers will be implemented on May 1.

"There have been numerous suggestions, appeals and the like (to postpone it) but today (yesterday), I give my assurance to the workers that the minimum wage, which will be implemented on May, will proceed as planned.

"We will not withdraw it and there will be no U-turn or such. It will continue.

"The details will be announced by Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri M. Saravanan."

Ismail Sabri said this at a compensation handover ceremony for former Perwaja Steel Sdn Bhd employees at the Kemaman Umno headquarters here yesterday.

Some 709 former workers, whose jobs were terminated in November 2014, received payouts of between RM3,000 and RM21,000, with an overall compensation worth RM8.645 million.

Ismail Sabri said workers need not worry



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri Yaakob speaking to former Perwaja Steel Sdn Bhd employees after a compensation handover ceremony at the Kemaman Umno headquarters yesterday. PIC BY GHAZALI KORI

as the implementation of the minimum wage would be carried out in accordance with the details announced by the Human Resources Ministry.

Meanwhile, Ismail Sabri urged the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) to play an important role in building a good relationship between employers and employees as cordial ties could enhance the country's economic capabilities.

He said this was necessary as the roles played by employees and MTUC were important in the economic recovery and to pave the way for a brighter future.

"I also hope that labour unions will work with the government to improve the welfare of workers."

He said employers needed to continue cooperating to ensure a harmonious working environment for workers.

"Usually, in terms of perception, labour unions are considered as against employers. When one mentions unions, the people would usually assume that unions would not agree with the employers and the government.

"But I am confident the new MTUC leadership would work with the government in improving the welfare of workers."

In this regard, Ismail Sabri said, workers must continue placing their confidence in the government to help them lead a better life.

On another matter, Ismail Sabri said the government would amend the regulations to allow teachers in Grade D48 and above to get involved in unions.

He said this was made following a request by the National Union of the Teaching Profession to allow teachers in Grade D48 and above to participate in union activities.

"I have contacted Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Zuki Ali to look into this matter so that teachers who are not involved in administration are allowed to unionise.

"Based on my understanding, under the act, those involved in administration and can influence decisions are not allowed (to unionise) anyway.

"But as I have mentioned, the government of today is committed to stand with the workers."

Page 1 caption: Foreign factory workers walking home in Keramat, Kuala Lumpur, recently. PIC BY GENES GULITAH