

PM ANNOUNCES BIG PAY HIKE FOR GOVT STAFF

More than 13pc increase is among the highest in history

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PRIME Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday presented civil servants with a memorable Labour Day gift, announcing a more than 13 per cent increase in their wages.

The increase, among the highest in history, will be effective from Dec 1.

The last time civil servants' salaries was revised was 12 years ago, with the highest increase then at 13 per cent.

Anwar said the move would involve more than RM10 billion in government expenditure.

"This is a large amount and a decent increase, among the best ever in history... it is because of the Madani government."

He said this speaking at the national-level Labour Day celebration, themed "Pekerja Kesuma Bangsa" at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre here.

Present were Deputy Prime Ministers Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof, Human Resources Minister Steven Sim and other ministers.

Anwar, who is also finance minister, said civil servants' minimum monthly pay, including salary and fixed allowances, would be more than RM2,000, higher than the present RM1,795 per month.

"I agree that this (current amount) is unreasonable.

"Under the Public Service Remuneration System (SSPA), the government will increase the salary to ensure that the minimum pay for civil servants will exceed RM2,000 per month."

He said the Sabah and Sarawak governments had also agreed to amend their labour ordinances to match the Employees Act 1955, which is applicable only to Peninsular Malaysia.

This would include amending provisions on maternity leave, paternity leave and flexible work



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim attending the national-level Labour Day celebration in Putrajaya yesterday. Present are (from left) Human Resources Minister Steven Sim, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Fadillah Yusof. PIC BY ASYRAF HAMZAH

arrangements. The bill to amend the Sabah Labour Ordinance and Sarawak Labour Ordinance would be tabled in the next parliamentary session.

Details of the new remuneration scheme for civil servants will be announced at the tabling of the 2025 Budget in October.

Anwar also urged the private sector to follow the government's lead in safeguarding workers' welfare by implementing reasonable minimum wages.

He said the private sector, boasting millions in profits annually, should allocate a portion of their earnings to their workforce, acknowledging their dedication and exemplary productivity.

"If they have good productivity and discipline, we (employers) should consider improving wage rates and treating them well, and this is what the government is doing.

"Although I touched on civil servants today, I want this message to be clear to the private sector as well, regardless of whether the company benefits greatly from the government or receives incentives from the government.

"What I announced today should be heard by the private sector."

Workers, he said, must be treated humanely and not as *separuh hamba* ('semi-slaves).

"Because of unbridled capitalism, there are companies who only think about their profits and not about humanity or the environment.

Anwar said: "Workers are being oppressed and treated like semi-slaves.

"That is why this day (Labour Day) is important.

"It is a day where employees fight for their rights, and it is because of this that we see the establishment of trade unions that become spokespeople to defend the rights of workers.

"If you talk about the Madani concept, you are talking about courtesy and humanity.

"We believe that all people — whether cleaners, clerks and cooks — are all equally important to generate economic growth."

He also called for the swift establishment of the Gig Workers Commission to champion the interests of these workers.

"There are segments of workers that aren't directly represented, hence the necessity for the Gig Workers Commission.

"We urge its expedited formation to ensure they receive the attention they deserve."

He had previously announced the establishment of the commission at the recent Bumiputera Economic Congress.

He said the aim of forming the commission was to protect the rights of 1.12 million gig workers, focusing on meeting social needs, resolving contract disputes and promoting their career advancement.

Page 1 pic: Civil servants at the national-level Labour Day celebration in Putrajaya yesterday.