



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim meeting members of the media at a breakfast event in Kota Kinabalu yesterday. NSTP PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

MEDIA SALARY

'Earning RM2,000 after 10 years is unacceptable'

KOTA KINABALU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim has called on the local media industry to introduce its own minimum wage scheme, describing it as a reasonable step to safeguard workers' welfare and strengthen the journalism profession.

Anwar said he had received complaints from media practitioners earning less than RM2,000 a month despite having worked in the field for over a decade, a situation he described as unacceptable.

"On this issue, I will discuss it

further with (Datuk) Fahmi (Fadzil), who oversees communications. There should be a meeting involving all media companies and practitioners.

"I think this — introducing a minimum wage — is a reasonable idea. The media industry today is very different, not just because of competition from social media.

"But if someone has worked for 10 years and is still considered senior while earning such a salary, it is difficult.

"I was shocked to hear that some media workers have served

10 years and earn below RM2,000. To me, that is simply unacceptable," he said in an engagement session here yesterday.

During the session, a representative from a Sabah media association highlighted that some members, particularly part-time journalists, were earning below the minimum wage of RM1,700.

Anwar said that government-linked investment companies had been instructed to set a minimum wage of RM3,100, sending a strong message to the private sector amid rising cost of living.