

**Minimum Wage Proposed By Opposition Detrimental To SMEs, Dewan Rakyat Told
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KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 31 (Bernama) -- Small and medium enterprises (SMEs) are of the opinion that the RM1,100 minimum wage proposed by the opposition in its alternative budget could affect their operations, the Dewan Rakyat heard Wednesday.

International Trade and Industry Deputy Minister Datuk Jacob Sagan said this was the reaction from SMEs and it could affect their operations directly and indirectly.

"This includes increased of production cost in the manufacturing sector, reduced profit margin and workers being laid off," he said when winding up the Supplementary Bill 2013.

Last April, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak had announced a minimum wage of RM900 a month (RM4.33 per hour) for the private sector in Peninsular Malaysia and RM800 a month (RM3.85 per hour) for Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

Sagan said setting the minimum wage was a crucial transformation step in increasing the country's competitiveness in the long term.

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