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Tajuk : Three companies fines for failing to pay minimum wage



UNIMAS vice chancellor Prof Dato' Dr Mohamad Kadim Suaidi (third right) presents a souvenir to Unimas Board of Directors chairman Datu Dr Hatta Solhi (fourth left), while (from left) Mohd Ariff Yusoff, Siti Norliza Mohd Sahar, State Labour Director Datu August Buma, Professor Mohd Fadzil and Professor Dr Kopli Bujang look on.

Three companies fined for failing to pay minimum wage

KUCHING: Two companies in Kuching and one in Miri have been fined by the court for failure to pay minimum wages, disclosed State Labour Department director Datu August Buma.

He said the department's main focus would be on the Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) because these three cases were discovered during normal inspection.

"So far, we have 14 investigation papers on non-payment of minimum wage, with two involving bigger employers in the hospitality industry with more than 100 employees.

"When that happens, we will have to come down with strict enforcement because we do not want employees in the country,

especially in Sarawak, to be denied of their rights as provided for under the law," August told the media after officiating at the opening ceremony of Sector Focused Career Fair UNIMAS Innovation Career and Education Fair (SFCF-UNIMAS ICE) at DeTar Putra, Univeristi Malaysia Sarawak, yesterday.

He said the new minimum wage rate would be implemented on 1 July 2016 and there would be no deferment.

He also stressed that every employer must comply with the new minimum wage policy and there would be no exception.

"We will not entertain any application from employers to defer payment of minimum wage when implemented on 1 July, and directives have been given to our 16

enforcement officers throughout the state to conduct inspection," he said.

August encouraged employees who are not paid minimum wage to come forward and file complaints with the department.

He also urged employers to take matter seriously.

"It is a very serious matter and we advise employers to comply with the law because once we prosecute, the penalty is beyond our control. It is up to the court," said August.

In 2016 Budget, the government readjusted the national minimum wage from RM900 to RM1,000 per month for Peninsular Malaysia and from RM800 to RM920 per month for Sabah, Sarawak and Federal Territory of Labuan, effective from 1 July, 2016.