

Better pay for security guards

Salary revision from July 1

By **SHAUN HO** and
CHRISTINA TAN

newsdesk@thestar.com.my

KUALA LUMPUR: Security guards in the private sector will enjoy a huge increase in salary beginning July 1.

Announcing the pay increase yesterday, Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam said the take-home pay for workers in the sector after the increase would range between RM1,100 and RM1,450 per month.

Their current salary is between RM300 and RM400 per month as provided under the Wages Council Act, he said, adding that the details of the salary increase in various zones would be released later.

Dr Subramaniam said about 40,000 foreigners are involved in the industry, and ministry sources said about 150,000 Malaysians worked as security guards.

He also hoped the salary increase would encourage more Malaysians to become guards.

"We are also planning to increase the salary of workers in the textiles, electronics and hospitality industries. We hope to finalise it by the end of the year," he told reporters at the Parliament lobby here yesterday.

Dr Subramaniam said his ministry was now reviewing the labour laws to encourage economic growth to complement the New Economic Model.

He said the ministry had discussed this with the Malaysian

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DR S. SUBRAMANIAM

Employers Federation, the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers, the Malaysian Trades Union Congress, National Union of Plantation Workers and Cuepacs to get feedback and proposals.

He added that the ministry planned to review various labour laws with the hope of making things more business-friendly," he added.

Datuk Lee Hwa Beng, who is chairman of the national minimum wage council for private security guards, said that with the new salary scale, security guards should perform better.

The low pay had resulted in poor quality work, he said, adding that many had to work double shifts or work 16 hours to make ends meet.

"This has caused the public to lose confidence in the industry," Lee added.