

'Postpone pay plan for guards'

Companies dismayed over guards' minimum wage proposal, says association

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KUALA LUMPUR: Security guard companies want the Government to postpone the implementation of minimum wage for security guards to Jan 1.

The Security Services Association of Malaysia said the July 1 date was too soon.

Its president Datuk Shaheen Mirza Habib said security guards' new salaries of RM1,100 to RM1,450 announced by Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam had sent "shock waves through the industry".

"The notice is too short for our members to renegotiate for new rates with our clients with whom there are already two to three-year contracts in force," he said when contacted yesterday.

On Wednesday, Dr Subramaniam said the pay increase for security guards in the private sector would be implemented on July 1.

He had said their salaries would go up by between 67% and 75% and the take-home pay would be in the range of RM1,100 to RM1,450.

Shaheen said the association, which has



Give us time: Shaheen claims salary revision might make companies go out of business.

400 members, was concerned whether the Government would increase its budget for security services as a result of the increase.

He said there was also worry whether the private sector would cut back on security services.

"The move would result in 250 to 300 companies going out of business," he said.

Dr Subramaniam, meanwhile, said the Government would study the association's request for a postponement.

Speaking to reporters at the ExxonMobil Safety Awards presentation, he reiterated that the RM1,100 to RM1,450 figure was the take-home pay that included overtime and allowances.

Malaysian Employers Federation Shamsuddin Bardan executive director said employers were relieved that the minimum wage that was gazetted recently was between RM500 and RM700, depending on which state the security guard company in.

He said the amount was a compromise figure based on recommendations by employers and workers' union to the Wages Council.