

Pay hike for guards lower than announced: MEF

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PETALING JAYA: Security guards expecting a hefty jump in their take-home pay from July 1 are going to be severely disappointed – the wage increases are far lower than announced by the human resources minister recently.

According to a statement from the Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) executive director Shamsuddin Bardan yesterday, Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam was in error when he announced the quantum of increase for the minimum monthly wage for security guards.

“The minister’s earlier statements had unnecessarily caused much anxiety to the security companies and false expectations on the part of the employees.”

Subramaniam announced in parliament that the take-home pay for workers in the sector after the increase would range between RM1,100 and RM1,450 per month, a major step up from the current take-home pay of RM300 to RM400 per month provided for under the Wages Council Act 1947.

However, the MEF statement said the actual minimum wages will be much lower. The revised minimum wages according to location are:

- » **Area A:** Penang, Selangor, Federal Territory of Kuala Lumpur, Federal Territory of Putrajaya, and southern Johor (Johor Baru, Kota Tinggi, Kulaijaya and Pontian) – minimum wage of RM700 per month.
- » **Area B:** Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Perak, Pahang, Terengganu, Northern Johor (Kluang, Batu Pahat, Mersing, Muar, Ledang and Segamat) and Sarawak – minimum wage of RM600 per month.
- » **Area C:** Sabah and Federal Territory of Labuan – minimum wage of RM550 per month
- » **Area D:** Kedah, Kelantan and Perlis – minimum wage of RM500 per month.