

CORPORATED MANAGEMENT / HUMAN RESOURCES

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Decision on minimum wage issues tomorrow

KUALA LUMPUR: The Human Resources Ministry will be unveiling its solutions for issues involving the minimum wage policy after the Cabinet meeting on the matter tomorrow.

The *New Straits Times* was told that its minister, Datuk Seri Dr S. Subramaniam, had already listed several amendments to the issues affecting employers, in the last Cabinet meeting.

Some employers have expressed dissatisfaction over the implementation of the policy.

They are calling for a postponement on the implementation date as they are unable to cope with increased costs.

A ministry spokesperson said the amendments were made in the last meeting and had already been discussed.

"It is now awaiting the approval of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

"The prime minister was away on an official work trip during the previous meeting."

On Sunday, Housing and Local

Government Minister Datuk Seri Chor Chee Heung said that the Cabinet had agreed for Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin, on behalf of the Cabinet Committee on Foreign Workers, to discuss with the relevant ministries on how to resolve the issue of minimum wage for foreign workers.

"Last week, the cabinet decided that Muhyiddin would negotiate with the Home Ministry and the Human Resources Ministry to resolve this issue.

"Hopefully, the negotiation will come to a viable solution that would appease all the parties involved," said Chor.

He added that an announcement would be made once an agreement was reached.

Chor said this after attending a lantern-lighting ceremony in conjunction with the Chinese New Year at Jalan Bukit Cina in Malacca.

He said this following MCA president Datuk Seri Dr Chua Soi Lek's call for a decision on the issue to be made quickly.

Chua had urged for a resolution to

be made before the Chinese New Year celebrations next week.

He said this was because the issue affected a lot of business owners and employers who were still waiting for the final decision on the matter to be announced, and should not be prolonged.

On another note, Chor lauded the fact that there were numerous activities held in Malacca in conjunction with Chinese New Year, which will fall on Feb 10.

"I admire how the people of Malacca have pulled out all the stops to celebrate the occasion.

"There are many festive decorations adorning the streets there. I believe that there will be 55 lantern-lighting ceremonies held this year."

He also said that he hoped the other states would adopt a similar approach in celebrating Chinese New Year on a larger scale.

"Not only would it help boost the tourism industry, but it would mirror the people's willingness to embrace each and every culture here.

"This attitude is what makes our country unique."