

Report on minimum wage ready

A REVIEW on the minimum wage is ready and waiting for approval from the cabinet.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Richard Riot Jaem said a council, which was set up under the Minimum Wages Order 2012, had carried out discussions with relevant parties, including employers, and it had prepared a report.

"The report is ready, but we need the cabinet's approval before we can reveal anything. With the rising cost of living, there is a need to look into

possibilities of increasing the minimum wage. Since it was implemented last year, we have recorded 1,201 labour cases related to it and 276 or 23 per cent were tried in court while the remaining 925 cases are still being investigated.

"Until Jan 31, we have received 1,796 complaints lodged by employees and 90 per cent have been settled," he said in wrapping up the debate on the motion of thanks on the Royal Address by the Yang di-Pertuan Agong.

He said checks by the ministry found that 587 companies or 11 per cent had yet to follow the minimum wage's ruling. The current minimum wage is RM900 for peninsula, and RM800 for Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

On issues of employment in several sectors being dominated by foreign workers, including plantation and construction, Richard said several initiatives were being carried out to encourage employers to hire more locals.