

Bosses must adhere to minimum wage ruling, says Riot

KUALA LUMPUR: There will be no deferment of the new private sector minimum wage scheduled on July 1 next year.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Seri Richard Riot said employers must adhere to the ruling "without giving any more excuse".

He said a national minimum wage was introduced three years ago.

"There is no turning back on this policy," he said in his speech at the handing over of appointment letters for the new National Wages Consultative Council and National

Wages Consultative Technical Committee programme.

Budget 2016 set the minimum wage for the private sector in the peninsula at RM1,000, up from RM900, and RM920 from RM800 in Sabah, Sarawak and Labuan.

Riot's speech was read out by ministry secretary-general Datuk Seri Saripuddin Kasim.

Riot said the Government would announce a standardised rate of minimum wages soon.

"Several clauses of minimum wages for those paid daily, piece-

rated and related matters, will be included in a new Order. The fine details of the Cabinet's decision will be forwarded to the National Wages Consultative Council secretariat soon," he said.

Riot said the increase showed that the Government was committed in improving the livelihood of the people.

"We hope the council members will continue to discuss this matter, and to consider the national interest as the minimum wage policy is an intervention to turn the country into

a developed nation by 2020," he said.

Riot said that as of August, a total of 182 employers had been charged in court and action taken against 122 for failing to follow the minimum wage ruling.

"We believe after much discussion in the Cabinet, that it is a balanced approach taken by the Government after considering the recommendations of the council members, World Bank and other stakeholders," he added.

At a press conference later, Saripuddin said employers had enough

time to be financially prepared for the change in the minimum wage structure.

"The rates set is acceptable and fair to all," he added.

Malaysian Employers Federation president Tan Sri Azman Shah Haron, who was also present, said the minimum wage did not differentiate between foreign and local workers.

"We are concerned that a large sum will go out of the country because of the minimum wage," he added.