

Minimum wage study

Council to look into proposal for single model for all sectors

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PUTRAJAYA: The soon-to-be set up National Wages Consultative Council will study a proposal for a single minimum wage instead of one for each sector.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam said that this was among the suggestions discussed by various stakeholders during a week-long "live lab" on the

issue. He said the proposal was for one minimum wage for employees in the peninsula and another for Sabah and Sarawak.

"Once the council is set up, it will look at all the suggestions and ideas that were raised during the laboratory," he told reporters after closing the laboratory yesterday.

Asked if there was a suggestion on what the minimum wage should be, Dr Subramaniam said representatives of employers and employees

had given feedback which he could not disclose. It was reported earlier that the Federation of Malaysian Manufacturers (FMM) proposed that the minimum wage level be set at RM700.

Dr Subramaniam said that when enforced, the minimum wage policy would cover all employees irrespective of whether they were locals or foreigners.

"We do not practise different wage systems for locals and foreign-

ers. Even now, both get the same amount of pay and we will hold on to that principle," he said.

The minister also said a commission would be set up to advise the council on technical, legal and professional matters.

The minimum wage laboratory was attended by MPs, senators, state exco members as well as representatives of the World Bank, government agencies, trade unions and NGOs.