

KERATAN AKHBAR

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KUALA SELANGOR: The government will take into account the ability of employers and the current state of the country's economy before allowing the implementation of the progressive wage policy, said Economy Minister Rafizi Ramli.

He said this is because the policy's implementation is voluntary and involves incentives from the government.

"We cannot simply impose, for instance a minimum wage order, because we have to take into account the ability of companies, employers and the state of the economy. The largest employers in the country are actually micro, small

and medium enterprises, comprising 97% of business entities.

"If we make it mandatory, some will go out of business, some will lose their jobs, so we have to balance it."

He said this is why the government's approach is to take into account the ability of employers, make it voluntary and provide government incentives.

Rafizi was speaking after officiating at a grant presentation ceremony under the People's Income Initiative programme and a townhall session with student leaders of the Selangor branch of Universiti Teknologi Mara at Puncak Alam on Tuesday.

He said his ministry and the Human Resources Ministry focus on private sector salaries, while the study on the Public Service Remuneration System is managed by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

"The progressive wage policy has a different challenge. It is not just a matter of money but it's also how we (the government) want to convince employers to raise wages gradually.

"For the Public Service Remuneration System, the government has to ensure that financial resources are sustainable enough, and the matter is being managed by the prime minister."

Earlier, Rafizi through his ministry submitted a grant amounting to RM6.96 million to the university's Student Affairs Division to carry out two projects, namely the implementation of mapping and monitoring of the People's Income Initiative programme as well as the organisation of a financial literacy course for its participants conducted by the varsity's Selangor branch.

The mapping and monitoring of the People's Income Initiative involves a poverty census of nearly 1,400 heads of households in four states to devise appropriate measures to increase the income of participants to enable them to cross the poverty line. – Bernama