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Pay deal for guards put off

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PUTRAJAYA: The cabinet has agreed to temporarily shelve the implementation of the new minimum salary for security guards scheduled for July 1.

The Human Resources Ministry said the Malaysian Security Services Association (SSAM) had requested the deferment to streamline their operations.

SSAM claimed that the move, if implemented next month, would complicate existing contracts signed between security guards and their employers.

SSAM urged the ministry to implement the new salary scale effective next January, the ministry said in a statement.

The cabinet, after considering SSAM's appeal, decided to delay the implementation of the new salary scheme until further notice.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam recently announced that starting July 1, security guards would be able to enjoy monthly salaries of between RM1,000 and RM1,450, including overtime pay and allowances.

This will mark an increase of up to 75 per cent of the current salary which ranges from RM300 to RM400 a month.

The increase will benefit more than 150,000 security guards.

SSAM president Datuk Shaheen Mirza Habib was reported to have said the postponement was necessary to prevent 300 Bumiputera security service companies in the country from winding up.

He had said that the employers required at least six months to resolve problems involving service contracts with private firms, government-linked companies and the government.

In another statement, Dr Subramaniam's



Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr S. Subramaniam recently announced that starting next month, security guards would get between RM1,000 and RM1,450 a month

press secretary, E. Sivabalan, said the minister was expected to discuss Malaysia's New Economic Model with countries of the International Labour Organisation (ILO) at the 99th session of the International Labour Conference in Geneva.

He said Dr Subramaniam, who left yesterday for the conference, would inform the ILO member countries on the importance placed by the government to move the economy to a higher level through building a highly-skilled workforce.

The conference would also discuss decent work for domestic workers, HIV/AIDS in the world of work, strategic objective of employment and a review of the 1988 Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work.