MTUC and MEF against weekly wage proposal

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KUALA LUMPUR: Weekly salary payments would be more troublesome than beneficial for employers and employees, say stakeholders.

Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC) president Datuk Abdul Halim Mansor said while some countries are paying wages on a fortnightly or weekly basis, the arrangement has not proven to help employees to better manage their finances.

"In Malaysia, wages are paid monthly and employees use it to manage their finance commitments like rent," he told TheSun when contacted.

He added that most employees might not agree with the weekly arrangement.

"If there is no such request, why are we altering things? Most employees will not agree to such an agreement," he added.

Meanwhile, Malaysian Employers Federation (MEF) Datuk Shamsuddin Bardan said the a weekly salary arrangement might not be against the law, but it would be inconvenient for employers.

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"Most employers pay through bank transfer and if it is to be done weekly, they would incur additional fees. Also the HR department will have to repeat the cycle at least four times every month. This is extra work for them," he said.

Shamsuddin also said employers who pay their staff in cash would risk security concerns when they have to pay on a weekly basis.

"It becomes a security concern when there is huge amount of cash to be paid to staff on weekly basis," he said.

Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Mahfuz Omar had said the government provides regulation for salary payments under Section 19 of the Employment Act 1955 and the National Wages Consultative Council Act 2011.

In a reply in Parliament he said according to the laws of the country, there is nothing against employers paying salaries weekly, whether the wages are calculated by the hour, day, week or month.

"The condition is that the limit of wages paid must not exceed one month," he said.

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