



# "FIRMS MUST UP WAGES AS PROFITS RISE"

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## PROGRESSIVE WAGE

# 'FIRMS MUST UP WAGES AS PROFITS RISE'

Workers' productivity increases not matched by pay hikes, says Anwar

### KUALA LUMPUR

**C**OMPANIES reporting significant profits must ensure their workers receive fair wages.

This is among the government's measures to address wage disparity and improve the financial wellbeing of private sector workers.

Speaking during Prime Minister's Question Time in the Dewan Rakyat yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said there was positive reception to public sector wage increases, but challenges remained in the private sector.

"As such, we have been urging companies that report significant profits to pay higher wages.

"I, along with other ministers, have met companies, including plantation companies that record high profits, and we have emphasised that wages must be fair.

"It is not right for companies to make high profits while workers' wages remain inadequate.

"There is a gap where productivity increases are not matched by wage increases," he said in re-

ply to Datuk Awang Hashim (PN-Pendang). Awang had inquired about the government's measures to increase private sector workers' wages.

Anwar said the government had introduced a mandatory monthly minimum wage of RM1,700, despite some resistance from private sector stakeholders.

"In addition to the minimum wage, the government has rolled out a progressive wage scheme. We have to admit that high-achieving companies should emulate this practice, which I am firm about.

"However, there is no legislation to compel private companies — after all, they are private enterprises — to implement the progressive wage scheme.

"But, we have started this moral switch, particularly with government-linked companies, such as Petronas, Tenaga Nasional Bhd and Telekom Malaysia.

"These companies, which employ hundreds of thousands of workers, are setting an example by paying above the minimum monthly wage, more than RM2,000."