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Workers' Wages: Bear in mind the high cost of living

By : MEGAT SHAH RIZAL NOOR IKHSAN, Kuala Terengganu

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WORKERS should not be paid low salaries so that we can remain competitive.

When I first started work in 1993 as a management trainee, I was paid RM1,300. Fourteen years on, I am surprised to hear that starting salaries have not changed much.

At the most, these days, new graduates are being offered between RM1,500 and RM2,000 as the starting pay. Imagine then what the pay would be like for non-graduates.

The cost of living these days is higher than what it was 14 years ago, and yet we still hear of some people still being paid between RM350 and RM500.

I'm against picketing and the Malaysian Trades Union Congress should not picket to have its voice heard. The minimum wage should be higher and must be adjusted to reflect the higher cost of living.

Having anyone living below the poverty line and working full-time, is unacceptable.

Companies and corporations that allow their employees to live below the poverty line should be ashamed of themselves.

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