

WAGES – THE MALAYSIAN ISSUE

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TRADE UNION AGENDA

- Concerns itself with interest of society at large
- Every worker has to earn a decent income
- Preservation of rights – based on minimum human rights requirements
- Might of capital and its abuses can only be countenanced where the labour force is united
- Globalization presents a threat to workers
- UN recognizes this through the Millenium Development Goals 2000

MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Benefits of economic growth unequally shared – both within and among countries
- Share of national consumption by the poorest fifth of the world's population decreased
- Widening of income inequality is of concern in East Asia
- Inequality still very high in Latin America, Caribbean and sub-Saharan Africa

MALAYSIAN TRADE UNION CHALLENGES

- Authorities making it difficult
- Organizing of the workforce a challenge
- Trade Union Department refuses to approve constitutional amendments
- Industrial action – interference
- Delay in judicial process
- Foreign companies ignore M'sian laws

DECENT WORK

“The primary goal of the ILO today is to promote opportunities for women and men to obtain decent and productive work, in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity.”

- ILO Director General Juan Somavia

POVERTY – WHAT IT MEANS

- Where wages are low and workers cannot meet basic necessities
- People have to work more than 8 hours in a day
- Economic measures quite misleading

**HAVE WE DONE ENOUGH TO ENSURE
THAT POVERTY IS BEING
ERADICATED?**

**ARE WE ALL GOING TO SIT BY IDLY AND
ALLOW OUR WORKERS AND OUR
PEOPLE TO BE EXPLOITED TO
SATISFY THE LUST FOR WEALTH BY A
SMALL MINORITY?**

DECENT WORK ASPIRATIONS

- Opportunity and income
- Rights, voice and recognition
- Family stability and personal development
- Fairness and gender equality

INCOME INEQUALITY

“The continued development of the global economy in this direction is neither sustainable nor desirable. Inequality not only leads to a decline in productivity but also breeds poverty, social instability and even conflict.”

Quote from the ILO

THE MALAYSIAN DILEMMA OF DECENT INCOME

- Right fundamentals missing – no minimum wage mechanism
- No arguments against this from a moral standpoint
- Growing wealth distribution issue
- CPI not reflective of the real level of cost-of-living increase

SOCIAL SECURITY ISSUES

- Little which we have is being taken away
- Medical care privatisation a big problem for the common man
- EPF – move away from concept of social security
- National Retrenchment Fund – a necessity

ILO – SOCIAL SECURITY

- Universal child benefits
- Universal access to essential health services
- Modest financial relief for unemployed
- Pensions for old, disabled

CONCLUSION

Trade union movement will continue the struggle

TERIMA KASIH

HIDUP PEKERJA !