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ACCCIM Press Statement on NWCC's Announcement to Postpone Minimum Wage for SMEs' Foreign Workers

The Associated Chinese Chambers of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia (ACCCIM) welcomes the Government's positive response to the call of the business community to grant blanket deferment to SMEs for the implementation of Minimum Wage for foreign workers. This announcement has brought relief to the SMEs as they are given sufficient time to negotiate with their employees to re-structure their salary framework.

Nevertheless, ACCCIM hopes that all relevant authorities and agencies would give full cooperation and support to industries and explain to the foreign workers on the latest changes to the policy if necessary, so as to avoid any misunderstanding by the foreign workers, and the recurrence of the incidents as happened in Muar.

Meanwhile, ACCCIM has also written to the Ministry of Human Resources, requesting to be appointed as member of the National Wages Consultative Council (NWCC) and relevant technical committee. ACCCIM hopes that the NWCC can accommodate adequate representatives from the business community to iron out problems and issues to ensure that the Minimum Wage policy can be fully implemented on 1st Jan 2014.

The ACCCIM also urges the Government to take heed of the views and proposals of relevant representative bodies before implementing any new policy in future, to avoid similar problems as in the case of implementation of Minimum Wage policy. It is politically bad to have implemented something without thoughtful consideration and subsequently having to make changes. Such consequences are also bad to the industries and the society at large.

ACCCIM also urges the SMEs to be more alert and proactive in responding and providing timely feedbacks to any new policy or changes being formulated by Government, to avoid being caught again in a predicament.

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