

Laid-off factory workers prevented from marching to PM's residence

Authorities in the capital yesterday stopped over 50 garment workers of Hana (Cambodia) I Inc from marching to Prime Minister Hun Sen's house to seek intervention over unpaid unemployment benefits. The gathering came after the garment factory announced its permanent closure due to a lack of orders amid the pandemic on June 23. The Labour Law stipulates that employers are required to cover workers' unemployment benefits in the event of an abrupt shutdown of operations. However, company manager Ty Sothyda said yesterday the workers were immediately informed about the decision to shut down the company before June 23. Therefore, she said, the company is not liable to pay unemployment benefits and has not violated the Labour Law.

Khmer Times (Sen David) 2/7/20

The General Secretariat of the National Council on Minimum Wage will conduct a survey on living conditions and the impact of COVID-19 on garment, textile, and footwear employees/workers in 2020.

It will be carried out between 17 and 31 July on a random sample of employees selected in Phnom Penh and the provinces.

Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training 17/7/20

EuroCham announcement 10/7/20

1. Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training Survey on Living Conditions and the Impact of COVID-19 on the Garment, Textile and Footwear Employees/Workers

in 2020

4. Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training Notification on the Provision of Subsidised Allowances to Suspended Employees in the Garment and Tourism Sectors (Round 9)

On 6 July, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training confirmed that 3,536 suspended employees from 19 enterprises and factories of the garment and tourism sectors will receive a message from Wing Specialized Bank about the subsidised allowance. Employees can withdraw the allowance at any branch of the nearest Wing agents by bringing their Khmer ID card and phone number. There will be no service fee required for the withdrawal.

5. Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training Notification on the Provision of Subsidised Allowances to Suspended Employees in the Garment Sector (Round 10) On 8 July, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training confirmed that 11,570 suspended employees from 14 enterprises and factories of the garment sector will receive a message from Wing Specialized Bank about the subsidised allowance. Employees can withdraw the allowance at any branch of the nearest Wing agents by bringing their Khmer ID card and phone number. There will be no service fee required for the withdrawal.

7. Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training Notification on the Provision of Subsidised Allowances to Suspended Employees in the Garment and Tourism Sectors (Round 12)

On 9 July, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training confirmed that 30,189 suspended employees from 96 enterprises and factories of the garment and tourism sectors will receive a message from Wing Specialized Bank about the subsidised allowance. Employees can withdraw the allowance at any branch of the nearest Wing agents by bringing their Khmer ID card and phone number. There will be no service fee required for the withdrawal. Savagely battered Cambodia's garment industry seeks urgent help to stay alive

[EuroCham newsletter 24-31/7/20](#)

Cambodia's garment industry had issued a renewed plea for help amidst new statistics revealing that more than 150,000 workers have now lost their jobs during the coronavirus pandemic.

In April, Prime Minister Hun Sen announced the government would pay US\$40 per month to garment workers whose employers had registered their companies' suspension with the Labour Ministry. Employers were asked to pay workers another US\$30 per month.

However, many of the affected workers have still not received any money. The Labour Ministry last week said it was currently processing payments for 30,189 workers from nearly 100 factories.

The Cambodian Confederation of Unions (CCU) urged the Prime Minister to intervene and provide money to workers more quickly to provide them with desperately needed financial support.

In an open letter, CCU claimed that workers had only received US\$20 from the government after their work was suspended for more than two months.

The World Bank in May projected that Cambodia will experience negative growth this year for the first time since 1994 due to economic losses during the pandemic.

The GMAC has asked for annual minimum wage negotiations to be suspended to relieve pressures on factory owners, although this is opposed by trade unions.

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