

## WELFARE

*Minimum wages - ZNECIA*  
A wage raise of 100 per cent by the government sparks row

*The Citizen 25 Jan, 2012*

# Isles employers warn on job cuts

Private sector players say they were not involved in setting new rates which they claim would adversely affect their operations within and outside the country following the changes

By Sturnius Mtwewe  
The Citizen Reporter

**Dar es Salaam.** Employers in Zanzibar are up in arms over a move by the government to raise the minimum wage by 100 per cent, warning that if implemented, it could lead to job cuts.

Officials of several organisations told *The Citizen* yesterday that the announcement raising the minimum wage to Sh140, 000 from Sh70, 000 would force them to review budgets, possibly reducing the number of employees in order to cope.

They protested that relevant government authorities did not consult them as appropriate before awarding the wage raise which they said could not be affordable to many businessmen, particularly in the tourism sector at this time.

The minister for Labour in Zanzibar, Mr Haroun Ali Suleiman, who announced the new wages at the weekend said employers would be

expected to start paying the doubled rates in February.

Yesterday, the minister reiterated that the law was followed in awarding the increment, noting that he would not back down. "But those who have issue with this should see me personally," he said in a telephone interview without elaborating.

According to Mr Suleiman, the proposed changes for the private sector were done formally following consultations with respective organs. The minister added that the government decided to review the wages in the Isles that had not been done since 2008. But Mr Mabrouk Omari Mohamed, the Chairman of the Zanzibar Chamber of Commerce warned in an interview that if the government forces the raise on businesses, they would be forced to cut jobs to meet expectations.

"This move will result in other employees seeking higher salaries and some sectors raising the cost of goods and services to fill the gap," said Mr Mohamed.

He added that it would not be surprising if people closed business due to exorbitant costs of production fuelled by other factors such as high inflationary levels.

“This move will result in other employees seeking higher salaries and some sectors raising the cost of goods and services to fill the gap,” MR MABROUK OMARI MOHAMED, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ZANZIBAR CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

MINIMUKA WAGE

# Sekta binafsi zapinga nyongeza ya mishahara Z'bar

Zanzibar

Na Mwinyi Sadallah

**W**AWEKEZAJI na wafanyabiashara katika sekta binafsi visiwani hapa, wamepinga viwango vipya vya mishahara wa kima cha chini vilivyotangazwa na Serikali ya Mapinduzi Zanzibar (SMZ) Januari 21 mwaka huu.

Msimamo huo wa kupinga mishahara hiyo umetolewa na Viongozi wa Jumuiya ya Wawekezaji katika Sekta

ya Utalii Zanzibar (ZATI), Jumuiya ya Wafanyabiashara wenye Viwanda na Wakulima, (ZNCCIA) na Chama cha Waajiri Zanzibar (ZANEMA) wakati wakizungumza na Nipashe visiwani hapa jana.

Walisema kiwango cha mishahara kilichopandishwa na serikali kutoka Sh. 70,000 hadi 145,000 kwa mwezi ni kikubwa na kitawaathiri waajiri na wananchi kwa vile watalazimika kupandisha bei za bidhaa na huduma na kuongeza mfumko wa bei kwa wananchi Unguja na Pemba.

Rais wa ZNCCIA, Mbarouk Omar Mohammed, alisema kwamba bahati

mbya mabadiliko hayo ya mishahara yamefanyika bila kuwapa nafasi ya kuwasikiliza wadau katika sekta hiyo visiwani hapa.

Alisema tangu serikali kutangaza viwango hivyo, wafanyabiashara na wenye viwanda wameanza kulalamika kuwa hawataweza kumudu kuwalipa viwango hivyo wafanyakazi wao.

Alisema kutokana na kuyumba kwa hali ya uchumi wa Zanzibar, wafanyabiashara watalazimika kupunguza wafanyakazi au kupandisha bei za bidhaa na kuwaumiza wananchi.

Mwenyekiti wa ZANEMA, Nassor Salim Mahark, alisema serikali lazima

iangalie upya viwango hivyo kwa sababu vitawaumiza wanwaajiri katika sekta binafsi visiwani hapa.

Alisema pamoja na ZANEMA kuwa na wajumbe wawili katika Bodi ya kujadili kima cha chini cha mishahara, uongozi wake umegundua hakuwakilishwa ipasavyo kabla ya kufikia maamuzi hayo.

"Tunatarajia kukutana wiki hii kujadili tatizo hilo jambo la msingi serikali kukaa na kuangalia upya mabadiliko hayo," alisema Nassor

Mwenyekiti wa ZATI, Abdul Samad, alisema iwapo kiwango hicho kitalazimika kuzingatiwa na

wawekezaji katika sekta ya utalii, watalazimika kupunguza idadi ya wafanyakazi au kupandisha gharama za huduma.

Hata hivyo, Waziri wa Kazi Uwezeshaji Wananchi Kiuchimi na Ushirika, Haroun Ali Suleiman, alisema viwango hivyo vipya vya mishahara vitanza kulipwa Februari 1, mwaka huu.

Alisema mfanyakazi katika sekta hiyo atalazimika kulipwa kima cha chini Sh. 145,000 kutoka 70,000, majum-bani 60,000 kutoka 30,000 wakati mfanyakazi mwenye ujuzi Sh. 10,000 kwa siku badala ya 4,500 na kibarua 7000 kutoka 3500 kwa siku.