

## Labor-intensive Industry in Karawang Needs to Receive Government Attention

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District Government (Pemkab) Karawang requested to maintain the labor-intensive sector. This is followed by the increase of District Minimum Wage (UMK) Karawang to Rp 3,919,291 from the previous Rp 3,605,272, which is predicted to lead to a massive wave of layoffs.

General Manager (GM) PT Beesco Indonesia Asep Agustian revealed, the high wages in Karawang that exceeds the wages of Jakarta is not logical. Especially for the last six years UMK has always been rising. "If not able to directly close (close). If every year such an increase, the company will be out of business," he said. Moreover, he added, the labor-intensive sector also absorbed primary and junior high school graduates who were mostly non-skilled. In the company alone, he said, there are about 6,000 employees who 89 percent are locals. He feared that the economy of one subdistrict residents would be paralyzed if the factory had to be closed. However, he said, it would follow the government's regulation on wages. Problem wage increase of 8.7 percent, he claimed will not suspend wages. "We will work for our employees," he added. Chairman of the Employers Association of Indonesia (Apindo) Karawang, Abdul Syukur, justify the potential number of unemployment is increasing due to MSEs in Karawang. Therefore, the company will make a reduction for the sustainability of the company. "Many companies are moving because they can not afford high UMK," he said. In fact, he mentioned UMK Karawang outperformed the minimum wage of several state capitals in Asia. Based on the data it has, the minimum wage of 2017 in New Delhi is Rp 1,958,800, Bangkok Rp 2,544,598, Kuala Lumpur Rp 3,110,424, Beijing Rp 3,317,427, Hanoi Rp 2,362,794, Manila Rp 2,911,603 and Jakarta 3,355,750. Therefore, he said, the problem must be addressed together, one of them to anticipate unemployment which every year continues to grow. Previously, Head of Manpower and Transmigration Office (Karawang Manpower and Transmigration) Karawang Ahmad Suroto said, West Java Provincial Government has on Tuesday (21/11/2017) has set MSE Karawang for 2018 amounted to Rp 3,919,291, and again became the highest in Indonesia. Of course, he said, there will be mass layoffs (layoffs). Therefore, the impact of wage increases in 2017 and about 12 thousand employees laying off until this September. He predicts that textile, clothing and leather (TSK) sectors will be hit by the 2018 increase in MSEs. Because, in 2017 there are some companies that choose to move, menumahkan employees, or ask for the suspension of wage payments. A number of companies that chose to leave include PT Metro Kinkin, PT Royal Industries, PT Dream Sentosa Indonesia, PT Hansae, and PT Mondelez. He called Garut, Majalengka, and Central Java became the target company TSK of Karawang. He said the predicted rise would also affect the services and trade sectors. While the manufacturing sector has not yet chosen to move because of wage increases. Industri Padat Karya di Karawang Perlu Mendapat Perhatian Pemerintah Pemerintah Kabupaten (Pemkab) Karawang diminta mempertahankan sektor padat karya. Hal ini menyusul naiknya Upah Minimum Kabupaten (UMK) Karawang menjadi Rp 3.919.291 dari sebelumnya Rp 3.605.272, yang diprediksi akan menimbulkan gelombang PHK besar-besaran. General Manager (GM) PT Beesco Indonesia Asep Agustian mengungkapkan, tingginya upah di Karawang yang melebihi upah DKI Jakarta tidaklah logis. Terlebih enam tahun terakhir UMK selalu naik. "Kalau tidak sanggup langsung close (tutup). Kalau tiap tahun kenaikan seperti ini, perusahaan akan gulung tikar," katanya. Terlebih, imbuahnya, sektor padat karya juga menyerap lulusan SD dan SMP yang kebanyakan non skill. Di perusahaannya saja, kata dia, ada sekitar 6.000 karyawan yang 89 persennya merupakan warga lokal. Ia khawatir nantinya perekonomian warga satu kecamatan akan lumpuh jika pabrik terpaksa ditutup. Meski demikian, kata dia, pihaknya akan mengikuti peraturan pemerintah soal upah. Soal kenaikan upah sebesar 8,7 persen pun, pihaknya mengaku tidak akan menangguk upah. "Kami akan mengusahakan untuk para karyawan," tambahnya. Ketua Asosiasi Pengusaha Indonesia (Apindo) Karawang, Abdul Syukur, membenarkan potensi jumlah pengangguran semakin bertambah akibat UMK di Karawang. Sebab, perusahaan akan melakukan pengurangan demi keberlangsungan perusahaan. "Banyak perusahaan yang pindah karena tidak mampu membayar UMK yang tinggi," katanya. Bahkan ia menyebut UMK Karawang mengungguli upah minimum beberapa ibu kota negara di Asia. Berdasarkan data yang pihaknya miliki, upah minimum 2017 di New Delhi Rp 1.958.800, Bangkok Rp 2.544.598, Kuala Lumpur Rp 3.110.424, Beijing Rp 3.317.427, Hanoi Rp 2.362.794, Manila Rp 2.911.603, dan Jakarta 3.355.750. Oleh karenanya, kata dia, permasalahan tersebut harus disikapi bersama, salah satunya untuk mengantisipasi pengangguran yang setiap tahun terus bertambah. Sebelumnya, Kepala Dinas Tenaga Kerja dan Transmigrasi (Disnakertrans) Karawang Ahmad Suroto mengatakan, Pemerintah Provinsi Jawa Barat telah pada Selasa (21/11/2017) telah menetapkan UMK Karawang untuk 2018 sebesar Rp 3.919.291, dan kembali menjadi yang tertinggi di Indonesia. Yang pastinya, kata dia, akan terjadi pemutusan hubungan kerja (PHK) masal. Sebab, dampak dari kenaikan upah pada 2017 lalu sekitar 12 ribu karyawan dirumahkan hingga September ini. Ia memprediksi perusahaan sektor tekstil, sandang dan kulit (TSK) akan terpukul dengan kenaikan UMK 2018 tersebut. Pasalnya, tahun 2017 ini ada beberapa perusahaan yang memilih pindah, meumahkan karyawan, atau meminta penangguhan pembayaran upah. Sejumlah perusahaan yang memilih hengkang di antaranya PT Metro Kinkin, PT Royal Industri, PT Dream Sentosa Indonesia, PT Hansae, dan PT Mondelez. Ia menyebut Garut, Majalengka, dan Jawa Tengah menjadi incaran perusahaan TSK dari Karawang. Ia mengatakan, kenaikan diprediksi juga akan berdampak pada sektor jasa dan perdagangan. Sementara sektor manufaktur belum satupun memilih pindah karena kenaikan upah.