

KERATAN AKHBAR

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Call to provide 'critical allowances' for firefighters

KUALA LUMPUR: Social activist Tan Sri Lee Lam Thye said the government, via Budget 2020, should reconsider improving the welfare of Fire and Rescue Department staff and provide critical allowances for them.

Lee said that since there was no approval for a critical allowance as yet and recipients would not receive it this year should it be approved, he hoped the government would consider it, in addition to a proposed salary increase for firefighters.

He said the proposal for better perks for firefighters was supported by all parties considering the challenges that come with job, including that of other important agencies.

"The critical allowance will benefit more than 14,000 firefighters nationwide. It is reported that if the allowance is approved, an estimated RM18 million is required for distribution to firefighters at a rate of RM200 a month," Lee said.

He added the department was also responsible for enforcing laws related to safety and fire prevention, as well as providing efficient and effective humanitarian services.

He cited a comment the Yang di-Pertuan Agong, Al-Sultan Abdullah Ri'ayatuddin Al-Mustafa Billah Shah, who also expressed concern over the need to improve the welfare of firefighters. - Bernama