



Egypt Court Orders Government to Apply 1,200 Pound Minimum Monthly Wage

By Abdel Latif Wahba and Ahmed A Namatalla - Oct 26, 2010

An Egyptian administrative court has ruled the state must implement a minimum monthly wage of 1,200 Egyptian pounds (\$208) for all workers, enforcing a decision by another court in March, Judge Kamal El Lamei said today.

The ruling applies to public and private workers in the Arab world's most populous nation. The government will likely challenge the decision, due to an inability to raise the pay of the millions of workers it employs and its desire to promote Egypt as a top investment destination based on the abundance of cheap labor, analysts said.

"The National Council for Wages needs to play a bigger role in determining and implementing a minimum wage," Magdy Sobhi, deputy director of Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, said of the government body established in 2003. "As it stands, it will be impossible for the government to abide by this ruling,"

The government respects judicial rulings and will determine its course of action after studying the court's decision, cabinet spokesman [Magdy Rady](#) said by telephone.

Egypt's most recent official minimum wage was set in 1984 at 35 pounds a month. The public sector workforce of 5.5 million constitutes 22 percent of the country's total employment, according to a report this week by the [International Monetary Fund](#).

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