

TELECOMS

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184 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, SEPT. 12 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERIDR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD HAS GIVEN AN ASSURANCE THAT THE PROPOSED PRIVATISATION OF THE TELECOMS DEPARTMENT SCHEDULED FOR NEXT YEAR WILL NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE EXISTING STAFF.

THE ASSURANCE WAS MADE IN HIS REPLY TO THE MEMORANDUM SENT BY THE MALAYAN TECHNICAL SERVICES UNION (MTSU) ON THE PROPOSAL TO TURN THE DEPARTMENT INTO A CORPORATION.

ACCORDING TO THE MTSU, THE PRIME MINISTER IN HIS LETTER SAID THAT HE WOULD STUDY THE CONTENT OF THE MEMORANDUM AND THE PROPOSED CONDITIONS.

+ALTHOUGH I CANNOT GIVE A DECISION NOW, THE PROMISE I MADE THAT THE STAFF WILL NOT LOSE FOLLOWING THE PRIVATISATION WILL BE HONOURED BY THE GOVERNMENT,+ HE SAID.

THE UNION SUBMITTED 11 PROPOSALS FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERSONAL ATTENTION BECAUSE THE STAFF INVOLVED +ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR JOB SECURITY AND FUTURE PROSPECTS+!

AMONG THE PROPOSALS ARE THAT ALL WORKERS ON THE PENSIONABLE SCHEME AND CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN THE SCHEME SHOULD BE ENTITLED TO PENSIONS, GRATUITY AND PENSIONS FOR THE FAMILY.-- MORE

THEY SHOULD ALSO CONTINUE TO QUALIFY FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S SALARY SCALE AND OTHER CONDITIONS INCLUDING ELIGIBILITY FOR HOUSING LOANS, CAR LOANS AND MEDICAL BENEFITS BESIDES BEING ENTITLED TO QUALIFY FOR THE REVISED SALARY SCALE AND CONDITIONS OF SERVICE.

THE MEMORANDUM ALSO PROPOSED THAT WORKERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN ABSORBED INTO THE PENSIONABLE SCHEME SHOULD BE GIVEN A CHOICE WHETHER TO OPT FOR THE SCHEME OR TO ACCEPT THE CONDITIONS OF SERVICE TO BE OFFERED BY THE CORPORATION.

THE UNION SUGGESTED THAT ALL THE WORKERS SHOULD BE GIVEN A PERIOD OF ONE TO TWO YEARS TO MAKE THEIR OPTIONS.-- BERNAMA