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MAHATHIR WARNS OF ACTION AGAINST TENAGA NASIONAL PICKETERS

Mahathir - picket

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today warned of legal action against Tenaga Nasional Bernad officers if they continue with their picket.

He said the picket they had staged last Friday was 'illegal and constituted a threat.

It was strange for the officers to picket 'because' the law did not provide for executive officers to picket, he told reporters when met at the Gerakan Chinese New Year +open house+ here.

+This shows that Tenaga Nasional executives do not understand their rights. If the picket continues, the government will take legal action,+ he said.

About 300 members of the Tenaga Nasional Senior Officers' Association staged a picket last Friday protesting against the management's decision to give them 1.5-month bonus and half-month ex-gratia. The association had wanted a 2.5-month bonus. -- more

▼04/02/16-35MST

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Mahathir - picket 2 Kuala Lumpur

During the picket, several officers beat up effigies of Tenaga Nasional chairman Tan Sri Aniarope, secretary Datuk Mahmud Badri and his deputy Puan Aziza Osman.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said that if the management gave in to the officers' demands, they would demand more. If this was not met, the officers might continue to picket.

+As Tenaga Nasional was engaged in providing a basic amenity, electricity, to the whole country, I fear that prolonged picketing will adversely affect national development,+ he said.

He said Tenaga Nasional staff should be grateful that their department had been privatised because many more government departments had not been privatised and did not enjoy the remuneration received by Tenaga Nasional staff.

Nevertheless, the government had given the undertaking that Tenaga Nasional staff would not lose out after privatisation, and the government had fulfilled all its pledges, he said. -- more

▼04/02/16-40MST

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Mahathir - picket 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said the picket by Tenaga Nasional officers was irresponsible and was not a good example.

+As higher level staff, they should set a good example for subordinate staff ... it is improper for them to picket,+ he told reporters at the MCA Chinese New Year +open house+ here.

+They (the officers) 'should resolve problems through negotiations with the management,+ he said.

Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim yesterday warned the executive officers not to stage another picket or appropriate action would be taken against them.

As the largest shareholder through the Minister of Finance Incorporated, which was responsible for major decisions of the corporate body, Datuk Seri Anwar said he would not submit to the demands of the association and that the decision to give a two-month bonus with ex-gratia was final. -- Bernama.

▼04/02/16-56MST