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MAHATHIR SAYS ITS UP TO POS MALAYSIA STAFF TO DECIDE

Mahathir-Refund

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Pos Malaysia staff could decide themselves whether to contribute to Pos Malaysia's share of the repayment to victims of the MIDFCCS refund cheques fraud.

The Prime Minister said although staff association and union leaders had agreed to jointly shoulder the responsibility, it was still up to the individual worker to decide.

+If the union leaders agree but the workers do not, then it is still not right,+ he told reporters who approached him at the Prophet Muhammad Birthday celebrations at the Merdeka Square here.

+The government stand is that it is up to the workers themselves to decide,+ he said in answer to questions about discussions he had with Minister of Energy, Telecommunications and Post, Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu on the matter.

Samy Vellu had sought the Prime Minister's view as there had been opinion that Pos Malaysia's decision was unfair. -- more

▼09/09/12-40MST

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Mahathir-Refund 2 Kuala Lumpur

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek had expressed the view that the decision was wrong because the responsibility of refund rested solely with Pos Malaysia.

Pos Malaysia Executive chairman Tan Sri Zainol Mahmood had said when announcing the decision that all associations and unions voluntarily agreed that the staff contribute to its portion of the \$381,000 it had to refund in accordance with the Finance Ministry decision.

Zainol also said the contribution was voluntary and any staff who were oppose to it would not be penalised.

Under the Finance Ministry directive, Pos Malaysia and MIDFCCS each had to bear responsibility for repaying 30 per cent of the losses, totalling \$1.27 million, suffered by the fraud victims.

The remaining 40 per cent had to be borne by the banks involved.

Dr Mahathir also said the 11,000 Pos Malaysia staff should not be asked to pay a fixed rate. +It is up to them. If they agree to the rate set by the unions, that's okay,+ he added. --- more

▼09/09/12-44MST

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Mahathir-Refund 3 (last) Kuala Lumpur

The unions had decided that clerks earning a monthly salary of less than \$1,000 would pay \$10 while those earning more would contribute \$20. Postmen were to pay \$20 and other officers based on their salaries.

Dr Mahathir, nevertheless, commended Pos Malaysia staff for their responsible attitude in sharing the burden.

+For us, we regard this as an action that is to be commended and one that shows responsibility. It marks a good beginning for Pos Malaysia,+ he said.

The Prophet's birthday celebrations committee chairman Datuk Dr Abdul Hamid Othman, who is Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department, also praised the Pos Malaysia staff when he spoke at the gathering.

He heaped high praise on them for their readiness to make sacrifices to regain the organisation's pride.

Zainol, who also attended the gathering, said he was deeply moved by the praise which he took as +a great honour+.

In response to Dr Mahathir's statement, he said Pos Malaysia would not fix the rate of contribution for the workers. +It is voluntary. If they wish to give more, the better,+ he added. -- Bernama

▼09/09/12-48MST