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Employment

MTUC CALLS FOR GUIDELINES ON PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, May 8 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) today called on the government to issue guidelines on part-time employment.

MTUC president Zainal Rampak said this was to ensure that full-time workers would not be deprived of their jobs during "bad times".

The congress, he said, had voiced its reservations over the government's move to review the Employment Act 1995, relating to part-time employment, under the Seventh Malaysia Plan (7MP).

"The MTUC believes that the government has prepared something for part time workers and this would encourage more women to work part time," he told reporters at the Asean Trade Union Council (ATUC) symposium here.

But the congress is worried that full-time workers would not be given priority especially during "bad times" when employers resort to cutting down their workforce to save cost, he said.

"During good times, employers will take part-timers to fill up job vacancies, but when bad times strike the employers may take more part-timers to save cost and this will deprive full-time workers," Zainal said.

On Monday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, while tabling the 7MP at the Dewan Rakyat, said the Employment Act was being reviewed to permit women to be gainfully employed as part-time workers.

Zainal said the MTUC also disagreed with the government's move to let government employees take up part-time work because this was against the labour law.

He also called on the government to provide more training and re-training to produce skilled workers who could eventually replace foreign workers. --BERNAMA

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