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MTUC

MTUC HAS BEEN MISUNDERSTOOD, SAYS ZAINAL

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) said it is disappointed that the Prime Minister has misunderstood its efforts to seek an amicable solution to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) dividend issue.

"It is not our intention to seek personal glory or flex our muscles by threatening to stage pickets and what we are interested in is to only secure workers' interest," MTUC President Zainal Rampak said today.

He said EPF had promoted the motto "Saving For Your Old Age" and MTUC would like to see it being fulfilled satisfactorily.

Zainal was responding to Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's statement yesterday that MTUC leaders were sometimes irresponsible, arrogant and inconsiderate.

Commenting on MTUC leaders' refusal to meet EPF officials without the presence of Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Dr Mahathir had said MTUC could get the nation to the edge of bankruptcy if it was not careful with its actions.

Zainal said: "Realising that the EPF is under Anwar's ministerial jurisdiction as the Finance Minister, we feel it is appropriate to direct our collective energies towards him as he should be well aware of the needs and aspirations of EPF contributors."

He said the ministry should better monitor the management of EPF investments and its other activities to ensure maximum yield for members' funds.

The congress had some proposals to convey to Anwar and this was why it did not want to meet the EPF management without the minister, he said.

The EPF has declared a 7.5 percent dividend for 1995, the lowest in 15 years.

"The question of the MTUC demanding higher EPF dividend this year does not arise anymore and what we are now more interested is to ensure that the workers...have some kind of assurance that the dividend rate will not slide further in the coming years," he added. -- Bernama

HT YBY