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Lim-MTUC

NOT TIME YET FOR MTUC LEADERS TO MEET ANWAR, SAYS LIM

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) leaders have breached convention by insisting on meeting Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim over the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) dividend issue, Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said today.

He said MTUC President Zainal Rampak sought his help yesterday to arrange a meeting between MTUC and Anwar as soon as possible.

The MTUC cancelled a meeting with the EPF yesterday because Anwar could not attend due to prior engagements.

"I advised Zainal to follow procedure, that is by meeting EPF Chairman Tan Sri Salehuddin Mohamad and its officials first.

"If they are not satisfied with the explanations from the EPF, only then should MTUC seek a meeting with Anwar," he told reporters after visiting the Plaza Low Yat construction site in Jalan Bukit Bintang here.

The MTUC-EPF meeting was to explain EPF's move to declare a 7.5 percent dividend for last year, the lowest in 15 years.

Lim said he agreed with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's view that MTUC leaders were being arrogant in refusing to meet EPF officials without the presence of Anwar.

"I regret the attitude of MTUC officials who know that Salehuddin is a former Chief Secretary to the Government and has performed his duties responsibly," he said.

On MTUC's proposed picket to protest the lower dividend payment, Lim advised the congress to drop its plan as such an action would have a negative impact on workers and the industrial sector.

On his visit to the project site, Lim said it was prompted by complaints from nearby residents that the construction caused vibrations.

Lim, who was briefed by the project's engineer, said the vibrations were due to drilling work but the problem had been overcome. -- Bernama

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