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Cuepacs sec-gen to vie for presidency

Rashid Yusof

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - Cuepacs secretary-general N. Siva Subramaniam and deputy president Mohd Yusop Harmain Shah are among five trade unionists nominated for the Cuepacs presidency which will elect leaders for a three-year term in December.

Nominations for the various office bearers in Cuepacs - the umbrella organisation for public sector unions - closed yesterday.

The list was released at a Press conference today by president Abdul Aziz Sultan, who is retiring.

Siva Subramaniam, who is also secretary-general of the National Union of the Teaching Profession - the biggest affiliate in Cuepacs - received the highest number of nominations with 17 against nine for Mohd Yusop of the Malayan Technical Services Union.

The 51-year-old NUTP leader later confirmed his bid for the presidency. "It is vacant and many affiliates want me to move up," he said when contacted.

Of the other three also nominated for the top job, Abdul Rahman Manan of the Customs Union is expected to contest the post of secretary-general as the running mate of Siva Subramaniam.

Ibrahim Wahab of Amalgamated Union of Employees in the Government, Clerical and Allied Services and Ahmad Shah Mohd Zin of Kesatria, which is the Armed Forces Civilian Staff Union, received one nomination each for the top post.

The presidency is a coveted post in the labour movement. The president, among others, leads the workers' side for discussions with the Government including for the salary revisions.

Past presidents of Cuepacs included A. Ragunathan, T. Narendran, Mohamed Abas and Mohamed Mat Jid.

For the secretary-general's post, Abdul Rahman, who is now deputy secretary-general, received 26 nominations, against eight for Siva Subramaniam and two for Abdul Rahim Mahad of Anulae - the Amalgamated National Union of Local Authority Employees.

The Cuepacs secretary-general's post is also important in the labour movement, looking after the day-to-day affairs of the organisation.

Among those who had served in the capacity were A.H. Ponniah and Jamaluddin Isa.

Rahim received 16 nominations, the highest for the two deputy president posts.

Thirteen others were also nominated. Mohd Yusop received 11 nominations.

A total of 23 trade unionists were nominated for the post of deputy secretary-general, nine for financial-secretary and six for deputy financial-secretary.

Abdul Aziz said those nominated have until Oct 31 to confirm their candidacy. The triennial convention-cum-election is expected to be held from Dec 2 to 4.

On the bonus issue, he said Cuepacs understood the country's economic and financial situation.

However, it will appeal to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to reconsider and pay bonus due to several reasons.

These are price increases, school expenses for children of civil servants, reduction in overtime, travelling allowances and others, and Cuepacs' decision to postpone its claims which it sees as a sacrifice.

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