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## Rival camps in RUM contest for legitimacy

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - A crisis is looming in the Railwaymen's Union of Malaya as rival camps stood their ground for legitimacy of their positions in the union.

After five hours of deliberation at an extraordinary general meeting called by RUM secretary-general Che Hani Ismail (reportedly sacked from the post and suspended of his membership on Dec 7), 63 delegates from nine of the 10 branches passed a resolution to suspend the membership of five rival executive council members and to carry out an internal investigations into their activities.

The EGM, held at the union office at Bangunan Tong Nam, Jalan Travers, also saw the election by secret ballot of 12 new exco members who have been entrusted to carry out the investigations.

According to Che Hani, the newly-elected exco members would meet next week to discuss the actions taken by RUM deputy president Abdul Razak Hassan (now acting president), vice-president R. Kalaivanan, treasurer-general Rozita Jailani, assistant-treasurer Anwar Mohd Amin and appointed exco member Nordin Mohd Zin.

Che Hani said he had also lodged a protest to the Director-General of Trade Unions on the registration of new office-bearers under Form L.

"I also announced to the delegates that the union president, Yahya Yusoff, had resigned from his post citing health reasons," he said, adding that the delegates passed a resolution to reject Yahya's resignation.

Che Hani said five branches requested for today's EGM which had the support of 12 branch secretaries.

Minutes after Che Hani had explained the crisis to newsmen, his rival Abdul Razak called for another Press conference at the president's room, where he categorically dismissed the EGM as invalid.

Abdul Razak claimed the EGM was called by Che Hani who had been sacked from his post and suspended of his membership.

(Following the sacking of Che Hani, Nordin was appointed acting secretary-general.)

"The election of new exco members runs contrary to the appointment of existing exco members in 1996," he added.

Abdul Razak said as the acting president of RUM, he would lodge complaints with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, KTMB board chairman Tan Sri Thong Yaw Hong, Director-General of Trade Unions Mohd Ghazali Abdul Ghaib and Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

Abdul Razak also contended that the EGM was invalid as Form L, listing the new office-bearers, was registered by the Trade Unions Department on Dec 26.

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