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Sacked RUM duo fail to attend internal inquiry

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KUALA LUMPUR, Wed. - The leadership crisis in the Railwaymen's Union of Malaya continued when an independent panel entrusted to carry out an internal investigation into the sacking of the president and general secretary failed to meet the duo today.

The absence of sacked president Yahya Yusoff and general secretary Che Hani Ismail (who was present at the union's headquarters but did not attend the inquiry) enabled the three-member panel to allow the implementation of the executive council approved resolution and accusations made against the two.

The panel comprises former Cuepacs president Mohamed Abas (also a former president of RUM), Cuepacs general secretary Abdul Rahman Manan (who is also the general secretary of the Customs Officers Union of Malaysia) and former Malaya Technical Services Union and former Cuepacs deputy president Amanat Ali.

The panel members' report made available to the Press stated that Yahya and Che Hani, through letters dated Dec 16, requested their attendance before the panel at 9.30am today.

After waiting for more than two hours and with the non-appearance of Yahya and Che Hani, the panel members then made their decision.

Meanwhile, former national vice-president Abdul Razak Md Hassan who has since filled the president's post following the sacking of Yahya said if the two were not satisfied with the independent panel's decision, they could refer the matter to the Director-General of Trade Unions Department or even the court.

"I also want to caution Che Hani that he must not present himself at the union headquarters as he is no longer the general secretary. He (Che Hani) will be regarded as a trespasser," he said, adding that the appointed general secretary Nordin Mohd Zin had already lodged a police report on this matter.

Abdul Razak also called on the Board of Directors of Keretapi Tanah Melayu Bhd to extend their co-operation to the union officials, particularly in the negotiation of the Collective Agreement, which was submitted by the former general secretary on Jan 2, this year.

"No negotiations are being carried out following the union's submission for a new CA," he added.

Besides that, Abdul Razak said the union would also like to appeal to the Minister of Finance to approve the application submitted by KTMB Board on its approved ex-gratia of RM400 to more than 6,000 KTM employees.

He added that this was in line with the recent announcement made by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad that RM400 be paid to Government employees.

Meanwhile, Nordin also sent a four-page letter of protest to Che Hani on the registering of Form L of the newly-elected executive council members through secret ballots made by 63 delegates from nine of the 10 branches at its extraordinary general meeting held on Monday.

The letter which detailed events that led to the present crisis in the union was also forwarded to Minister of Human Resources Datuk Lim Ah Lek, the ministry's secretary-general, Director-General of Trade Unions Department Mohd Ghazali Abdul Ghaib, KTMB executive chairman Che Khalib Mohd Noh, all branch chairmen, secretaries and delegates.

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