

10 JUN 1998

Estates

TALKS ON NEW CA FOR ESTATE WORKERS START END OF JUNE

KUALA LUMPUR, June 10 (Bernama) -- Negotiations for a new collective agreement between estate workers and the Malaysian Agriculture Producers Association (MAPA) will begin before end of the month, National Union of Plantation Workers (NUPW) executive secretary A. Navamukundan said today.

He said the NUPW had submitted to MAPA proposals for a new salary structure and other matters relating to the welfare of estate workers.

"A draft collective agreement on salary rates and other fringe benefits has been drawn up and will also be carried into the negotiations," he told Bernama.

In a related development, a group of about 100 people gathered outside the gates of the Prime Minister's Department here today to hand a letter seeking an appointment with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Those in the group claimed they were members of estate workers committees but Navamukundan, when contacted about the gathering, said the NUPW had nothing to do with it.

The group, through its spokesman S.Arulchelvan, said they wanted Dr Mahathir to intervene in their demands for better wages.

Their letter to the prime minister was handed over to an officer from the Prime Minister's Office at the guardroom.

Arulchelvan told reporters outside the guardroom that estate workers were presently being paid an average of RM500 per month.

But in light of the current economic situation they were asking for a minimum monthly pay of RM750, a yearly increment of RM50 and pension benefits of RM100 per month for each year of service, he said.

Commenting on this, Navamukundan said the NUPW would do its best to bargain for a better deal for the estate workers with MAPA in accordance with national labour laws.

-- BERNAMA

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