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Zainal-MTUC

MTUC FORMS COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE TWO AUSTRALIAN EXPATRIATES

PETALING JAYA, April 4 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) has formed a committee to investigate the case of two Australian expatriates who were alleged to have humiliated the country.

MTUC president Senator Zainal Rampak said the committee was formed following the statement by Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek recently who claimed that the issue had been closed as the MTUC failed to substantiate the claim.

"Initially the Ministry (of Human Resources) said there was a case, then they said there was no case, thus we agreed at the meeting yesterday to set up a committee to investigate thoroughly the two expatriates," he told reporters here today.

At a press conference on March 17, Lim said the MTUC and the union representing the workers of the company concerned had failed to submit evidence and strong justification to support their claim against the two expatriates.

The two Australian expatriates attached to the F&N Coca-Cola Beverage Sdn Bhd Shah Alam as managing director and logistics and distribution manager were alleged by the MTUC to have belittled the Malaysian labour laws by describing them as "stupid" and "behind time."

The two were also alleged to have made disparaging remarks about the public holiday declared by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad in conjunction with the success of Malaysian athletes in several events at the 1998 Kuala Lumpur Games and changing the religious public holidays (Thaipusam and Nuzul Quran) to be replaced by other public holidays which had no bearing on religion.

"We have been informed that the case has been closed, however through the committee we will carry out a thorough investigation on the matter to substantiate the allegation," said Zainal who regretted the move by Lim to close the case.

-- BERNAMA

MS AO