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MTUC-Adjustment

MTUC WANTS CHANNEL FOR DISCUSSION FOR FIVE BODIES

KUALA LUMPUR, June 5 (Bernama) -- The government must create a special mechanism so that staff of the five statutory bodies, whose demand for pay adjustment had been approved yesterday, would not have to wait too long for future salary adjustment, the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) said.

MTUC deputy president Mohamed Shafie BP Mammal said a forum was needed where staff of the statutory bodies concerned could channel their queries over salary, condition of service and other problems.

"The MTUC hopes that their fate would not be left hanging in future. Their case is unique as they don't have a channel for discussion, unlike the other government or private sector employees," he said when commenting on the government's approval of the salary adjustment for the employees concerned which was backdated to January 1995.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced that more than 10,000 employees of the Social Security Organisation (Socso), Employees Provident Fund (EPF), Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN), Tabung Haji and the Armed Forces Fund Board (LTAT) would receive a salary increase of between RM150 and RM200.

Fixed entertainment allowance and payment for domestic helpers for the executive group on par with the top management group in the Public Sector (JUSA) had also been increased to between RM1,000 and RM2,000 a month and between RM500 and RM1,000 a month respectively.

The adjustment for employees of statutory bodies whose salaries were separated from the public sector in 1992 had never been considered earlier due to the economic situation, among other things.

Shafie said MTUC thanked the government, particularly Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek, for being sensitive in resolving the problem which had been stalled for so long.

He said the settlement also reflected the close cooperation between employers and workers and demonstrated that industrial harmony in this country could be maintained.

The settlement also avoided controversy between the government and the employees concerned because picketing was supposed to have been held next week, he said.

With the government's approval, Shafie said it was time that the employees concerned increased productivity and appreciated the government's recognition of their sacrifices all this while.

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