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Malpractice

NUTE ALLEGES WRONGDOINGS IN TELEKOM, SENDS MEMO TO PM

KUALA LUMPUR, July 12 (Bernama) -- The National Union of Telecom Employees (Nute) said today it will write to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to expose alleged wrongdoings in Telekom Malaysia.

Nute president Mohamed Shafie Mammal said he himself would hand over the memorandum to the prime minister next week.

"We'll expose the malpractices in Telekom, let him (the prime minister) read all about it," he said at a press conference here today.

When asked to elaborate, Mohamed Shafie said: "It's not a long list, but it has enough evidence to merit a revamp of Telekom's management."

The union, he said, would also send similar memoranda to First Finance Minister Tun Daim Zainuddin and Second Finance Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

Mohamed Shafie said Nute would ask the government to set up an independent auditor to scrutinise the running of Telekom Malaysia.

He said he was confident that "many things would be uncovered."

Nute also expressed regret and shock over Datuk Ali Hassan's recent resignation as Telekom Malaysia's chairman since Ali had, according to Mohamed, performed his duties well.

He said Ali also had good working relations with Telekom Malaysia's board members and enjoyed solid support from the companies 26,000 non-executive staff.

Mohamed Shafie said Ali, who was appointed Telekom Malaysia chairman in December 1997, had brought changes to stabilise and improve Telekom Malaysia's corporate image.

Ali's resignation, which the Finance Ministry announced last Friday, took effect today.

The company's former senior vice president for regulation and internal affairs Md Radzi Mansor succeeded him.

The union also urged the government the source of an Asian Wall Street Journal (AWSJ) report, which Mohamed Shafie claimed was part of a scheme to create animosity between Ali and Telekom Malaysia chief executive officer Datuk Mohamed Said Mohamed Ali.

The AWSJ report suggested that Mohamed Said and Ali had differences over financing issues since early this namely relating to the company's overseas investments in South Africa and Thailand.

On Md Radzi's appointment as Ali's successor, Mohamed Shafie said Nute fully endorsed the appointment and expressed hope that the incoming chairman would not rescind "good decisions" made by Ali earlier.

-- BERNAMA

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