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Nube-Banks

CHECK ON BANK STAFF LEAKING CONFIDENTIAL INFO - NUBE

KUALA LUMPUR, March 17 (Bernama) -- The National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE) today took to task bank employees leaking confidential information to outsiders, saying their act is irresponsible and unprofessional.

NUBE secretary-general G.Gopala Krishnan said the union would not condone any bank staff leaking out information as it contravened one of the most fundamental banking ethics.

"NUBE categorically states that it agrees with the Prime Minister that this act by those involved is irresponsible and unprofessional," he said in a statement.

He was commenting on Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's revelation yesterday that bank employees who sympathised with opposition parties were passing individual and government financial transactions to outsiders and posting them on the Internet.

By divulging the information to outsiders, Gopala said the employees had infringed the Banking and Financial Institutions Act and such acts were serious punishable misconducts.

"We hope the banks concerned will take immediate steps to investigate such deviations and bring the culprits to book," he said.

He, however, said the number of such employees could be small.

Gopala urged the government to reconsider its action of not dealing with such banks as it tantamounted to punishing all employees and bank for the malicious actions of a few irresponsible persons with vested interest.

He also urged Melaka Chief Minister Datuk Wira Mohamed Ali Rustam to reconsider the state government's decision to withdraw its fixed deposits from two banks.

Actions of a few irresponsible employees during the last general election did not warrant such a drastic and punitive reciprocal action, he said.

Gopala said NUBE was trying to get an appointment to meet Ali in efforts to convince the state government to reconsider its decision.

On some bank workers campaigning for political parties during working hours, he said it was wrong to do so and bank managements had the right to stop such activities.

Meanwhile, the Association of Banks in Malaysia said it took a serious view of the alleged leakage of customers' information by some bank staff.

"In this respect, the association wishes to emphasise to all its members to strictly comply with the provisions of Bafia at all times," it said in a statement.

Section 97 of the Secrecy Provision of Bafia states that no officer of any licensed financial institution shall review or publish to any person, any information or document whatsoever relating to the affairs or account of a customer, it added.

-- BERNAMA

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