

MTUC feels annuity scheme will be scrapped

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By JACQUELINE ANN SURIN

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) does not expect the EPF insurance annuity scheme to be reinstated after the consultant's review is completed.

MTUC secretary-general G. Rajasekaran said EPF had given its assurance that the congress' views would be sought and considered.

"This shows a willingness (on the EPF's part) to do things differently. They have learnt a valuable lesson that decisions cannot be made arbitrarily," he said in an interview yesterday.

He said there was no reason to doubt the sincerity of the Government's assurance because of the Prime Minister's intervention in the matter.

MTUC announced yesterday it would defer for three months its picket which had been planned for tomorrow to protest against the annuity scheme, the reduction in death and disability benefits and the management of EPF funds following Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir

Mohamad's written assurance to address the three issues.

Rajasekaran, however, said the MTUC would go ahead with the picket if the issues were not satisfactorily resolved.

On claims by certain MTUC general council members that the status of Wednesday's meeting — which was to have been a preparatory one for the picket — had been changed to an emergency meeting without adequate notice, Rajasekaran said the change was constitutional.

It is learnt that some council members had protested the change of status at the eleventh hour.

One council member, who declined to be named, questioned whether it was proper for the meeting to be used to annul a decision (to hold the picket) made by a proper general council meeting earlier.