

# MTUC right all along, says Zainal

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**PETALING JAYA:** An actuarial report which is said to have recommended that the EPF Board manage the annuity scheme shows that the MTUC had been right all along, congress president Senator Zainal Rampak said.

Zainal, who said that he was not aware of the report personally and had only read about it in a local business weekly, added that a number of recent incidents showed that the consortium of six insurance companies should not be allowed to operate the scheme.

"The image and credibility of the EPF is at stake.

"We hope the special board meeting on Aug 6 to discuss this issue will be in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the nine million contributors," he said yesterday.

Zainal said the report was submitted by AON Consulting to EPF about a month ago.

"The report is strictly confidential and I am merely commenting on the article published by the business weekly," he said.

He said that the two cases of cheating by an insurance agent recently also showed that the scheme should not be run by insurance companies.

Elaborating on the incident, Zainal said the agent had tampered with the application forms of two members.

According to the business weekly, the actuarial report had recommended that the Government manage the scheme.

"AON Consulting has been asked to go back to the drawing board and carry out some number crunching as to how much it would cost the Employees Provident Fund to operate the scheme," the business weekly quoted a source as saying.

The study was commissioned following MTUC's protest against allowing insurance companies to manage the scheme.

MTUC argued that if the scheme was run by EPF, contributors would not have to pay for agents' commissions and taxes and the money would go back to the contributors.

On May 8, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad suspended the scheme pending the consultant's study.