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DAP WANTS EMPLOYEES BE ALLOWED TO CONTRIBUTE 11 PER CENT FOR EPF

KUALA LUMPUR, April 2 (Bernama) -- Employees who wish to continue contributing 11 per cent to the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) should be allowed to do so, the DAP said today.

Although the government had announced a two per cent reduction in employees' contribution effective yesterday, DAP National Chairman Lim Kit Siang said such a cut could only be optional and could not be made compulsory as stated in the EPF Act 1991.

"The EPF is dutybound to ensure that the 9.7 million contributors are not put to any inconvenience, unnecessary hassle or red tape should they want to continue to make 11 per cent contribution to EPF," he said in a statement.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced last week the two per cent reduction in employees's contribution for a year as part of the government's economic stimulus package to counter the United States economic slowdown.

Lim said Section 43 of the EPF Act 1991 stipulated that every employer and employee is entitled to pay monthly contributions exceeding the statutory minimum rate and contributors must give notice to the board if they want to pay more than the statutory rate.

He called on Senator Zainal Rampak and the other five workers' representatives on the EPF board to hold an emergency meeting to ensure a completely hassle-free process for EPF contributors who wanted to continue to pay the 11 per cent contribution rate.

-- BERNAMA
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