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SME-Union

DEFENCE MINISTRY MADE CONFLICTING STATEMENTS, CLAIMS SME UNION

PETALING JAYA, Feb 25 (Bernama) -- The Employees Union of SME Technologies Sdn Bhd today claimed that the Defence Ministry made conflicting statements on the issue of winding down SME Technologies Sdn Bhd's operations in Sungai Buloh.

Its President, Mohamad Hassan Othman said company employees have not received any job offer from Syarikat Malaysia Explosive Ordnance or its subsidiary as stated by Chief of Armed Forces Jen Tan Sri Mohd Zahidi Zainuddin recently.

"Only 20 executives were made the offer while 200 other employees including union members did not receive any such offer, he told a press conference at the office of the Malaysian Trade Union Congress here today.

SME Technologies is a manufacturer of a variety of rifles and ammunition for the defence industry.

Hassan also denied Zahidi's statement that SME Technologies was only undergoing a restructuring but in actual fact the company was ceasing operations effective March 1.

"The employer recently advertise for vacancies in local newspapers and said if there are employees from SME Technologies who are interested, they should apply as fresh recruits," he added.

Meanwhile, MTUC President Senator Zainal Rampak who chaired the press conference said he will bring the matter to the attention of Human Resource Ministry and to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Zainal also called on the government to set up a special committee to investigate the claims made by SME Technologies that the company was being closed down after sustaining losses following a contract to deliver 106,000 Styer rifles worth RM350 million.

It is believed that SME Technologies's impending closure was linked to a change in management which wanted to merge its subsidiaries SME Ordnance, SME Aerospace and SME Technologies under the new name of National Aerospace Defence Industry (NADI).

-- BERNAMA

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