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MTUC-EPF

MTUC TO MEET EPF'S CONSULTANTS OVER ITS ANNUITY SCHEME

PETALING JAYA, May 16 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) will meet consultants engaged by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to discuss the EPF's annuity insurance scheme, its president, Senator Datuk Zainal Rampak, said today.

He said that the meeting would be held on May 24 at the EPF headquarters.

"I don't know who they are but I believe they are local consultants," he told a news conference at Bangunan TWU (Transport Workers Union) here.

The meeting is organised following the move by the MTUC to defer the nationwide picket on May 12 for three months until Aug 3 when Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad gave an undertaking in a letter to the MTUC to shelve the annuity insurance scheme until the completion of a study conducted by consultants engaged by the EPF.

The MTUC, in his seven-point claim, wants the scheme to be reviewed as it was dissatisfied over the benefits offered to the EPF contributors.

Dr Mahathir also agreed that the EPF's death and incapacitation payment be restored to the previous rate of between RM1,000 and RM30,000 and gave a guarantee on the transparent management of the EPF funds.

Zainal has said he was confident that the three-month period was sufficient for the EPF to make changes besides allowing for time for discussions to fully resolve the various issues.

He said that the MTUC also planned to meet Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy to discuss its seven-point claim.

Meanwhile, asked to comment on the dismissal of two officials of the in-house union of Epson Precision (M) Sdn Bhd, Zainal said that the MTUC would stage a picket outside the factory's premises in the event that the company and the Human Resources Ministry fail to resolve the matter.

According to Zainal, Nadzri Daud, 33, president of the in-house union, and Suhaimi Othman, 32, its secretary, were dismissed on Jan 23 this year for asking their colleagues to put on the union's badge.

"The company disagreed with their action and without conducting any internal inquiry dismissed them, in violation of Section 14 of the Employment Act 1955," he said.

On the proposed picket to be staged at the Sungai Way Free Trade Zone, Zainal said that the date had not yet been fixed but he hoped that the company and the Human Resources Ministry would not take too long to resolve the matter.

Nadzri and Suhaimi, who were present at the news conference, said that since they were dismissed four months ago, other companies were no willing to employ them.

"We have tried (to apply for jobs) at eight other companies but unsuccessful. It is understood that they have referred to Epson and after that they immediately rejected us," said Suhaimi.

-- BERNAMA

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