

21 MAY 2001

MTUC-EPF

MTUC TO SET UP MONITORING COMMITTEE TO KEEP TRACK OF EPF'S FUNDS

IPOH, May 21 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) will set up a monitoring committee to keep track of the management of funds of the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) to prevent abuse, said its president, Senator Datuk Zainal Rampak.

"A report will be ready in three months' time after the formation of the committee which will comprise MTUC officials and economists.

"The report will be submitted to the government for their action," he told reporters after attending the Perak MTUC dinner here last night.

Also present were Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Tajol Rosli Ghazali and Human Resource, Youth and Sports Development Committee Chairman Datuk Jamal Nasir Rasdi.

Zainal also said about 90,000 electronic workers in the country were expected to be retrenched by the end of the year following the economic slowdown in the United States.

"Because of these economic problems, several multinational companies may shift their operations to other countries in order to reduce their costs especially labour costs," he said.

Zainal said some companies had already shifted part of their operations to other countries even though they were still operating in Malaysia.

"The International Trade and Industry Ministry and the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry should meet investors especially foreign investors to convince them to maintain their operations in the country," Zainal said.

Commenting on the statement by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on increasing the participation of non-Bumiputeras in the civil service, he said the MTUC agrees with the prime minister because it could produce a balanced racial composition that would benefit the country in the long run.

"The lack of interest of non-Bumiputeras to join the civil service is because of low wages.

"That's why we are fighting for minimum wages for workers which can overcome the imbalance in the civil service," he said.

Zainal said the government had agreed in principle to the system and discussions were underway on the minimum wage of RM900 a month instead of the RM1,200 proposed earlier but objected to by the corporate sector.

-- BERNAMA

KAY RM