

10 MAY 2001

MTUC-Picket

SATURDAY'S PICKET DEFERRED BECAUSE OF PM'S GUARANTEE- ZAINAL

KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) deferred Saturday's picket after getting an assurance from the Prime Minister that three of its claims against the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) will be considered, its President Senator Zainal Rampak said today.

Speaking to reporters at the Parliament lobby here, he said the decision was made in the interest of the workers who were happy with it.

"I wish to stress that the MTUC is a body that champions the workers' interests and will not allow any political organisation to take advantage of the issue," he said.

In a letter to the MTUC, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had said the EPF annuity scheme would be deferred until consultants had completed a study on it, the death and disability benefits amounting to RM2,000 would be reviewed taking into account the previous rate of RM1,000 to RM30,000 and ensure EPF funds were managed well without giving rise to any doubts from anyone.

Zainal was confident that the three-month period until Aug 9 would be enough for the EPF to make changes in its management and to create room for talks leading to a full settlement of the issue.

He said the EPF had agreed to the MTUC request that its representatives be allowed to present their views to the EPF.

"What we want is transparency and good governance so that the EPF funds will be used in the best possible way and not put to any use that will affect the rate of dividends," he said.

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