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Fong-MTUC

STUDY ON EPF'S SCHEMES TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT MTUC'S VIEWS, SAYS FONG

KUALA LUMPUR, May 10 (Bernama) -- The study on the Employees Provident Fund's annuity and death and incapacitation schemes will take into account the views of the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC), Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Fong Chan Onn said today.

He said that the study, promised by the government yesterday, would be completed within the next three months and would include views and recommendations of the country's largest private sector umbrella trade union.

"Once the study is completed, the issue will be resolved once and for all," Dr Fong told reporters after attending the 15th Asean Labour Ministers Meeting here.

Over the past few months, the MTUC claimed that the management of workers' funds by the EPF has caused unhappiness among workers in the country. Among the issues which allegedly cause dissatisfaction are the annuity scheme and the death and incapacitation schemes.

The MTUC planned to stage a picket this Saturday but decided yesterday to defer it for another three months following Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's assurance to look into the matter and carry out a study on the grouses.

Dr Fong urged the MTUC to give its full cooperation to the EPF and the government in the study.

On the picket threat, he said there was no need for such drastic action as the government had always been on the side of the workers and problems should be resolved through discussions.

"We have always been responsive to the needs of workers in the country so the need should not arise until they have to picket...we can always talk out things and reach an amicable solution to the problems faced," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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