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Settle CPF issue quickly, MTUC tells Singapore

PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) has called for a quick settlement of the Central Provident Fund (CPF) issue, which involved the savings of Malaysians previously working in Singapore.

Its president Zainal Ram-pak urged the Government to pursue the matter with its Singapore counterpart and resolve the issue amicably.

"We don't want to hear any more cases of people intending to commit suicide for not having access to their CPF contributions," he said in a statement.

Sham Weng Hong, a Malaysian salesman, attempted suicide in Singapore last Friday after failing to get the CPF to release some S\$70,000 (RM147,000) that he claimed to have accumulated in the fund over seven years of working in the republic.

Zainal also called on all affected workers to send protest notes to Singapore's Finance Minister, to voice

their dissatisfaction over the delay in resolving the issue.

He said Singapore's Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had previously agreed that the CPF issue would be negotiated as part of a comprehensive package of five key issues between the two countries.

A meeting between the foreign ministers of both countries is scheduled in July.

"We call upon the Singapore government to de-link the CPF issue from the package and resolve it as fast as possible," he said.

Zainal said the MTUC had sent a memorandum to Singapore's Finance Minister and had met Singapore High Commissioner to explain the need for a "fast track" approach to the problem.

The MTUC, he said, had received numerous telephone inquiries from affected workers who wanted to know when they could get their money.