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Wisma Putra not told yet of Zimbabwe's suspension

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. - The Commonwealth secretariat has not informed Wisma Putra on Zimbabwe's 12-month suspension from the grouping.

A spokesman said they came to know of the suspension through media reports.

"We have not received anything officially on the suspension," he told the New Sunday Times today.

The decision was made on behalf of the 54-nation group by the leaders of South Africa, Australia and Nigeria after studying the Commonwealth observer mission's report on Zimbabwe's recent presidential elections.

It came on the eve of a planned three-day general strike called by Zimbabwe's main labour federation in protest against what it called post-election harassment of workers.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard said Zimbabwe's membership would be reconsidered after a year.

Zimbabwe will be barred from all Commonwealth councils effective immediately.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi yesterday said that if Malaysia received an official note, it would be brought to the attention of the Cabinet and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

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