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Siva ready to contest MTUC post

by R. Manirajan
newsdesk@thesundaily.com

KUALA LUMPUR: Former Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam (*pix*) will contest in the Malaysian Trade Union Congress (MTUC) election if nominated for any position next year.

He said he still wants to fight for the rights of workers based on his vast experience in trade union and feels more needs to be done for the workers in this country.

Speaking after the handing over of the Cuepacs presidency to his deputy Nordin Abdul Hamid, Siva said: "I don't want anyone to feel this as a threat, I am not going against Zainal Rampak; everyone in MTUC is my friend."

In announcing what he had earlier termed a "con-

troversial statement", Siva said: "MTUC is the one that brought me up when I first joined the union."

In an immediate response, MTUC secretary-general G. Rajasekeran said the union welcomes Siva's intentions as his experience and knowledge will be useful to the trade union.

"We (the union) welcome his intentions, I will not be perturbed by his offer, even if he wants to contest my position."

Siva, 56, retires today after serving the civil service for 35 years since 1968 and being in the union for 30 years since 1969.

He was Cuepacs secretary-general from 1996 to 1998 and the president from 1998 to this year.

The National Union of Teachers Profession (NUTP) secretary-general has been

offered the post of NUTP executive secretary in Kuala Lumpur and Perak.

He has also been made Cuepacs adviser.

However, Siva said he has yet to accept these appointments as he needs to discuss the offers with fellow colleagues in Cuepacs.

On whether he will be joining any political party as he had earlier expressed his intention to help the Barisan Nasional in the coming general election, Siva said: "I have no such intentions. Everyone in any political party including the opposition are my friends. I don't want any position, I have enough."

"I just want to repay the government for what it has done for civil servants all these years, including the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad."