

Siva retires but is still in the 'family'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Outgoing Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam revealed a "four-tiered" post-retirement plan after he handed over the post to his deputy Nordin Abdul Hamid yesterday.

Siva Subramaniam, who is also outgoing NUTP secretary-general, described his plan as his tribute to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and the Barisan Nasional Government for taking good care of the nation's workforce.

His post-retirement plan begins tomorrow when he becomes NUTP executive secretary, which will enable him to represent the union as a delegate in the MTUC triennial delegates conference early next year where he will be able to contest for one of the umbrella body's top positions.

Without revealing which post, Siva Subramaniam said he would be contesting in the MTUC elections to oblige the request by the NUTP's executive council, which decided on the move when they met two days ago.

"I am not against Zainal Rampak (MTUC president) or (G.) Rajasekaran (MTUC secretary-general) as both are my friends.

"By contesting and getting into the congress, I'm merely returning home

to the 'family.' I just want to help by trying to solve some of the problems faced by the nation's workers," said Siva Subramaniam, who is seen as a close ally to Zainal.

Other plans include continuing to serve as advisor to Cuepacs and to form a think tank called the Teachers Front to assist the Government in matters relating to education.

"I want to go down to the ground to tell the people the truth and to eradicate misconceptions about the

Government as everyone must unite to develop the nation," he said.

On the Teachers Front, Siva Subramaniam said that nine teachers' unions had met last week to endorse the idea.

"The Front's secretariat will be handled by the NUTP and we will be seeking Deputy Education Minister Datuk Abdul Aziz Shamsuddin's guidance in managing it," said Siva Subramaniam, adding that he might be the think tank's advisor.