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Siva to stand for major MTUC post in future

KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam, who will step down as Cuepacs president tomorrow, said he planned to contest for a major post in the Malaysian Trades Union Congress in its next election as he wants to continue making contributions to workers' welfare.

He said the National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) had offered him the post of executive secretary, which would enable him to contest in MTUC elections, and that he would use his wide experience in Cuepacs to help workers if he was elected.

"If I get the support of members, I wish to be actively involved in MTUC. I do not intend to become popular or to keep clinging on to a post but to help workers who are oppressed by employers," he told a Press conference here today.

Siva Subramaniam will also relinquish his post as NUTP secretary-general on leaving the civil service tomorrow, after 35 years and nine months.

Earlier, he handed over the Cuepacs' presidency to his deputy Nordin Abdul Hamid at a brief ceremony attended by senior Cuepacs and other union leaders at Wisma Cuepacs.

Siva Subramaniam said NUTP, in its meeting two days ago, had approved a motion to enable him to be a delegate in the next MTUC meeting.

"NUTP has unanimously agreed to nominate me as a candidate to contest for any major post in the MTUC and this will be decided by the NUTP executive council later," he said.

He said he had no intention to topple MTUC president Datuk Zainal Rampak or other office bearers as they were all his friends who championed the cause of workers.

He said he could make further contributions in MTUC after having seen the success of Cuepacs in looking after the civil servants who enjoyed a more than 20 per cent increase in salary over the last five years.

"The success of Cuepacs also lies with the leadership of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi who want workers to be equipped with new skills," he said.

On whether he would also be involved in politics, Siva Subramaniam said he already had too many responsibilities. Besides, there was already a large number of able politicians in the country.

He said he was not a member of any political party and no one had approached to bring him into active politics.

Siva Subramaniam also paid tribute to other Cuepacs leaders and members for their co-operation during his tenure.

He said the Cuepacs' unity was exemplary as proven by its members who had put aside different racial backgrounds to elect him as Cuepacs leader.

"Although the majority of Cuepacs members are Bumiputeras, they still chose an Indian to be the president," he said, adding that it was a clear indication that there was no racial prejudice in the organisation.

Siva Subramaniam said he would repay the Government's generosity by explaining to workers its policies and the need for them to carry out their tasks well.