

Maybank backing in-house union to sideline us, says NUBE
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By Shannon Teoh

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 21 — The National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE) accused Maybank today of backing a new union to dodge an 80-month bonus claim.

Maybank chief executive Datuk Seri Abdul Wahid Omar said yesterday that the country's biggest lender respected the right of employees to choose whether to be represented by in-house or industry unions.

He said 61 per cent of Maybank employees in the clerical/non-clerical category are NUBE members but others decided to form the Maybank Non-Executive Union (Mayneu) on January 3.

But Union secretary-general J. Solomon said Abdul Wahid's statement "was meant to mislead employees and the public" while ignoring "its obligation to NUBE" to resolve the bonus claim.

He added that Maybank's "blatant support for the in-house union" was a violation of a High Court stay order on the registration of Mayneu.

"Maybank (has shown) its willingness to use the media to influence its employees and... the decision-making parties and may well be regarded as sub-judice and contempt of court," he said.

NUBE has been locked in a dispute with Maybank over bonuses since June 2009 and is seeking 80 months pay for its members which it says is the same received by the bank's management over the last 10 years.

But Abdul Wahid said yesterday NUBE members were governed by the union's collective agreement which stipulated a two-month annual contractual bonus.

He said the NUBE did not agree to a performance-based variable bonus and so the union cannot demand payment over and above what was negotiated and agreed to.

Two weeks ago, the union pressed their case when 50 of its members picketed outside Maybank headquarters to coincide with a visit by Datuk Seri Najib Razak.

The union, which has about 30,000 members, also alleged that the prime minister had failed to resolve issues affecting bank employees, in particular those in Maybank.

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