

Bank staff set to stage first-ever picket

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KUALA LUMPUR: More than 10,000 bank employees are expected to support a first-ever national picket here against non-affirmation of a new collective agreement.

The picket, organised by the National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE), will see clerical and non-clerical workers protesting for a 30 per cent pay hike, the award of the cost of living allowance (COLA) and a stay on the two-month yearly contractual bonus which took effect 40 years ago.

NUBE's general secretary J. Solomon said: "We have been in negotiations with the Malayan Commercial Banks Association (MCBA), the commercial banks management union, since last November but have not received a favourable reply."

The negotiations on the collective agreement for 2006 to 2008 reached a deadlock on Aug 28.

The agreement was referred to the Human Resources Ministry, which in turn had directed the matter to the Industrial Court because MCBA officials did not show up for two reconciliation meetings set by the Industrial Relations division of the ministry.

At the picket to be held today from 11am to 3pm in front of Maybank headquarters, along Jalan Tun Perak here, it is expected that about 1,000 members would take part in a blood donation campaign organised annually by NUBE.