...Mohamed Yaacob presented her a cheque ...

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NUBE: No-show by bank group on two occasions

KUALA LUMPUR: The National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE) is upset with the Malaysian Commercial Banks Association for not turning up at two meetings scheduled by the Industrial Relations Department.

NUBE secretary general J. Solomon said they were ready to continue negotiations but the association's officials did not show up on Sept 19 and Sept 27, and the IR Department had to call off the meetings.

He was responding to a statement by Malayan Banking president and chief executive officer Datuk Amirsham A. Aziz urging NUBE to continue with the talks.

"The association did not reply our letters and also failed to show up for the two meetings set up by IR Department.

"We are all for negotiations," Solomon added.

In their collective agreement revision, the union is urging bank managements to share their profits with workers.

Solomon said that banks made billions in profit annually and were not willing to share it with employees who had contributed to it.

The union is asking for 30% increase in wages, but the association wants to discontinue the contractual bonus instead.

The counter-proposal by the association effectively works out to be about 13% in increased wages.

Solomon said that their appeal for the salary increase was based on the country's strong economic growth over the past five years and in view of the recent increase in the civil service salaries.