

# 'Share profits with workers'

## Have a heart, NUBE urges banks

By M. KRISHNAMOORTHY  
krishna@thestar.com.my

**KUALA LUMPUR:** The National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE) is urging bank managements to have a heart and share their profits with workers.

NUBE general secretary J. Solomon said the banks made billions in profit annually and were not willing to share it with employees who had contributed to it.

"With banks making hefty profits, their CEOs/MDs, according to annual reports, get salary pay-outs of RM1mil on the average.

"This shows that the services of NUBE members, who are the first contact point of customers, are not appreciated and remunerated accordingly.

"The appeal for the salary increase is based on the strong growth of the country's gross domestic product over the past five years and in view of the recent increase in the civil service salaries," said Solomon.

NUBE is on a nationwide roadshow to meet more than 25,000 clerical and non-clerical members to explain work-to-rule procedures that will be implemented by the union from tomorrow.

The work-to-rule covers all procedural and administrative aspects, one of which is for staff members to check every currency note under the ultraviolet light to detect counterfeits.

The union has also insisted that the employers have to request in writing if they want their employees to work overtime, in accordance with the collective agreement.

Solomon said that although the move would affect customer service, the union had no alternative but to take this route.

"All cordial options through negotiations with the Malaysian Commercial Banks Assoc-

»The appeal for the salary increase is based on the strong growth of the country's gross domestic product ... and in view of the recent increase in the civil service salaries«

J. SOLOMON

iation (MCBA) have come to naught," he said, adding that he regretted any inconvenience caused to the customers.

The MCBA represents bank managements' interest nationwide.

NUBE is asking for a 30% increase in wages but MCBA, in return, wants to discontinue the two-month contractual bonus, Solomon said.

"This counter-proposal by MCBA effectively works out to be about 13% increase in wages," Solomon added.

With the government salary adjustments, the pay for a civil service clerk starts at RM1,300, while clerks in banks start off at RM995.

"The rising costs of living due to the increase in global oil prices have affected NUBE members in the lower-income bracket," Solomon added.

## Banking services to slow down

**KUALA LUMPUR:** If you find your banking services slower than usual, it could be because of a work-to-rule involving 25,000 members of the National Union of Bank Employees (NUBE).

NUBE secretary-general J. Solomon announced the work-to-rule after a deadlock in wage negotiations between NUBE and the Malaysian Commercial Banks Association

(MCBA) which represents bank managements. In the negotiations, NUBE has asked for a 30% increase in wages but the MCBA counter-proposed by discontinuing the two-month contractual bonus.

"The MCBA counter-proposal effectively works out to be about 13% increase in wages. The banks have not considered the economic plight of NUBE members," Solomon said.

SUNDAY  
STAR  
2-09-07

STAR  
1-09-07