

Pay and promotion
protest escalates

1,500 PWD MEN MAY WORK-TO-RULE

ABOUT 1,500 technicians of the Public Works Department will go on a work-to-rule from Monday to protest against the Government's enforcement of a new pay structure for its technical grade staff.

More than 300 Government surveying assistants have already gone on a go-slow and have refused to do outdoor assignments since July 12.

On Monday, they will be joined by the 1,200-member Association of Government Architectural, Cartographic, Engineering and Surveying Technicians.

The chairman of the association, Mr Chu Kei-man, said yesterday it was almost certain the go slow would begin on Monday.

by
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The association is currently conducting a poll among its members on whether or not to stage a work-to-rule to protest against "the government's unilateral decision to impose the new pay structure on PWD's technical staff," he said.

Details of Monday's action are expected to be finalised in the next couple of days and a final decision will be taken on Friday.

Proposed action includes refusal to accept any extra work or overtime work. The technicians are also expected to insist that they be accompanied by professional supervisors while doing outdoor work.

Mr Chu said his members felt strongly about the Government's refusal to consult the association on either the setting up of the commission of inquiry or the new pay structure.

He also said his members were further deprived of a post allowance which was granted to surveying assistants under the new pay structure.

The surveying assistants were given this post allowance, which is equivalent to one increment point, as they are required to work outdoors without professional supervision.

Mr Chu accused the Government of pushing the technical grade review through the Finance Committee and the Executive Council without sufficient consultations with his association.

The actual establishment strength of middle to lower grade technicians in the Public Works Department is about 2,000 and work could be seriously hampered with more than 1,500 of them going on a go slow.

The industrial action of 300 Government surveying assistants has already delayed about 350 public works projects in both the public and private sectors.