

NO35:  
MAHATHIR-CUEPACS  
BM

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV 27<sup>81</sup> (BERNAMA) -- DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR  
MOHAMAD SAID TODAY HE IS PREPARED TO MEET THE CONGRESS  
OF UNIONS OF EMPLOYEES IN THE PUBLIC AND CIVIL SERVICES  
(CUEPACS) TO FIND OUT THE TRUE POSITION REGARDING ITS DEMAND  
FOR HOUSING ALLOWANCES.

+ I MYSELF WANT TO KNOW WHAT CUEPACS REALLY WANTS FROM THE  
GOVERNMENT IN RELATION TO THE DEMAND, + THE PRIME MINISTER  
SAID.

HE TOLD THIS TO REPORTERS WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE ULTIMATUM  
BY CUEPACS THAT IT WOULD PICKET IF THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT  
RESOLVE WITHIN THREE WEEKS THEIR CLAIM FOR HOUSING ALLOWANCES  
FOR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

CUEPACS SECRETARY-GENERAL ENCIK JAMALUDDIN MOHAMED ISA WAS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT ALL CUEPACS AFFILIATES HAD BEEN DIRECTED TO SUBMIT IMMEDIATELY HOUSING ALLOWANCE CLAIMS TO THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND GAVE THE GOVERNMENT THREE WEEKS TO SETTLE THEIR CLAIMS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD NOT YET RECEIVED THE LETTER APPEALING HIM TO RESOLVE THE MATTER QUICKLY.

HOWEVER, HE SAID, HIS OFFICE WAS ALWAYS OPEN TO CUEPACS TO MEET HIM TO RESOLVE ANY PROBLEM. -- BERNAMA MORE 1456/A1

NO36:

MAHATHIR-CUEPACS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

HE SAID THAT CUEPACS ALWAYS HAD NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT EACH TIME AND +I AM A PRIME MINISTER WHO CONSTANTLY MEETS THE UNIONS.+

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID IT WOULD BE RATHER DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE CUEPACS' DEMAND WOULD BE MET AS THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC POSITION AND EXPORT REVENUE WAS NOT +THAT GOOD+ AS IN THE PAST.

+IT IS QUITE DIFFICULT TO NEGOTIATE WITH UNIONS; IF THE ANSWER IS NEGATIVE THEY FEEL THAT I HAVE NOT GIVEN ANY ANSWER, IF THE ANSWER IS YES, I WILL HAVE TO CONSIDER SEVERAL MATTERS PRIOR TO THAT,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THAT IN ENTERTAINING ANY CLAIM, THE GOVERNMENT MUST THINK OF THE BENEFITS TO BE ENJOYED BY ALL THE PEOPLE AND NOT ONLY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALWAYS STRIVING TO DISTRIBUTE THE WEALTH OF THE COUNTRY AMONG ALL THE PEOPLE AND BECAUSE OF THIS IT HAD TO BEAR A \$350 MILLION BURDEN IN THE RECENT BUDGET TO REDUCE THE COST OF LIVING. -- BERNAMA MORE 1500/A1

NO37:

MAHATHIR-CUEPACS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

HE REMINDED CUEPACS THAT THE GOVERNMENT WAS ALWAYS, THINKING ABOUT THE WELFARE OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, AND IN THE LAST REVISION OF SALARY SCHEME HAD GIVEN THEM GOOD PENSION BENEFITS.

+YOU CAN MAKE COMPARISON WITH ANY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD AND YOU WILL FIND THAT NO OTHER GIVES GOOD TAX-FREE PENSIONS AND OTHER PERKS SUCH AS ENJOYED BY OUR GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES,+ HE SAID.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT IF ONE WERE TO COMPARE THE SALARIES BETWEEN THE TOP AND LOWER RANKING STAFF, THERE WAS BOUND TO BE DIFFERENCES.

IF A COMPARISON WAS MADE BETWEEN LOWER-RANKING GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR, IT WOULD BE FOUND THAT THOSE IN GOVERNMENT SERVICE WERE ENJOYING BETTER FACILITIES, HE SAID.

HOWEVER, AT THE TOP LEVEL, THOSE IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR WERE GETTING BETTER SALARIES THAN GOVERNMENT OFFICERS, HE ADDED.

AS SUCH, IT WAS APPROPRIATE FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO GIVE BETTER FACILITIES TO SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS TO PREVENT THEM FROM LEAVING GOVERNMENT SERVICE FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR AS WAS HAPPENING NOW.

-- BERNAMA 1505/1B