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KUALA LUMPUR, AUG 27/ (BERNAMA) -- CUEPACS PRESIDENT ENCIK AHMAD NOR TODAY SAID IT WAS NOT FAIR FOR DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TO SAY THAT CUEPACS AND THE FIVE NJCS WERE FIGHTING ONLY FOR THEIR OWN INTERESTS.

+HE SHOULD NOT THINK OF SAYING SUCH THING. IT'S NOT RATIONAL,+ HE TOLD NEWSMEN AFTER THE OPENING OF A THREE-DAY CONFERENCE ON PUBLIC SERVICE EFFICIENCY IN MALAYSIA ORGANISED BY THE UNION OF POSTAL WORKERS (UPOW) HERE.

THE PRIME MINISTER HAD CRITICISED CUEPACS AND AND THE FIVE NJCS FOR WANTING TO +FILL THEIR OWN POCKETS+ WITHOUT REALISING THAT THE GOVERNMENT'S ROLE WAS TO ENSURE EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH.

HE MADE THE STATEMENT TO NEWSMEN AT THE KUCHING INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT RECENTLY BEFORE RETURNING TO KUALA LUMPUR AFTER A FOUR-DAY VISIT TO SARAWAK. DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR HAD ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE SUBJECTED TO THREATS BY ANY GROUP, INCLUDING CUEPACS AND THE FIVE NJCS (STAFF SIDE), TO WITHDRAW SUPPORT FOR THE BARISAN NASIONAL IF CIVIL SERVANTS' PAY CLAIMS WERE NOT MET BY JAN 1.

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+ALL WE ASK IS FOR SALARY ADJUSTMENTS IN ORDER TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF CIVIL SERVANTS, SIMILAR TO THAT THEY ENJOYED IN 1980,+ ENCIK AHMAD SAID.

HE CLAIMED THAT SINCE THEN, THERE HAD BEEN A SHARP DECLINE IN THE VALUE OF WAGES AND THIS HAD CAUSED HARDSHIP TO CIVIL SERVANTS.

ON THE PAY CLAIMS, HE SAID THAT AS FAR AS CUEPACS AND THE FIVE NJCS WERE CONCERNED, THEY WERE PREPARED TO SIT DOWN WITH THE GOVERNMENT TO FIND AN AMICABLE SOLUTION.

+I HAVE BEEN TRYING TO GET THE PRIME MINISTER BUT THERE HAS BEEN NO DEFINITE REPSONSE. MAYBE HE IS TOO BUSY WITH OTHER THINGS OF GREATER IMPORTANCE,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA

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