

# Dr M values decision of the unions

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**KUALA LUMPUR,**  
Tues. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the Government appreciated the decision of Cuepacs and the National Joint Councils (Staff side) to call off their nationwide picket scheduled for tomorrow.

Asked if he was hopeful a settlement would be reached on the industrial dispute with Government employees over wage claims, he would only say: "The Government is always hopeful."

On when he would hold talks with representatives of Cuepacs and the NJCs (Staff side), he told reporters at Parliament House: "Anytime I am free."

Deputy Premier Datuk Musa Hitam described the cancellation as the "second step" to resolve the problem associated with the wage claims by civil servants.

The first step was his statement on Oct 14 calling all parties to tone down their statements regarding the issue.

Datuk Musa, in welcoming the decision by the five National Joint Councils (Staff side),

said the "cooling off" period following his statement of Oct 14 paved the way for negotiations and talks between the Government and Cuepacs and the five NJCs.

Asked whether he thought the present efforts to solve the problem would be successful, Datuk Musa said: "I will not add to what I have said. Speculation will only lead to more speculation which would create unnecessary mis-perception."

"We are looking forward to the talks and meetings. I am sure with goodwill and sincerity as well as willingness by both parties to see industrial peace and stability, we will achieve success in the third and final step."

Datuk Musa said the interests of the workers in the nation would not be discounted to establish industrial peace and stability.

He said the final step would be the process leading to the cancellation of the scheduled strike on Jan 15.

Datuk Musa hoped this would be achieved through understanding, goodwill and sincerity during the forthcoming talks and meetings as had already been demonstrated by all parties.