

Cuepacs gets letter from Prime Minister

Meeting set for Wednesday

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has agreed to meet representatives from Cuepacs and the five National Joint Councils (NJC) on Wednesday to discuss the civil servants' wage claims.

The green light for the meeting from the Prime Minister was contained in a letter to Cuepacs this morning.

By **BALAN MOSES**

Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin, who has acted as the intermediary between the workers' representatives and Dr Mahathir in the past, handed the letter to Cuepacs president Ahmad Nor at the former's office.

The meeting has been scheduled for 5pm at the Prime Minister's Department.

Cuepacs secretary-general Haji Jamaluddin Mohamad Isa said today that the Prime Minis-

ter had agreed to meet five Cuepacs representatives and five representatives each from the five NJCs.

He said the 30 representatives would attend a pre-council meeting at Cuepacs headquarters at 9am the same day.

"This is to prepare ourselves for the meeting. We are praying for the best as far as the outcome of the meeting with Dr Mahathir is concerned," he said.

Encik Jamaluddin was optimistic that Dr Mahathir would be sympathetic to the claims

for better wages.

He felt that the "cooling off" period after the cancellation of the proposed nation-wide picket last Wednesday had helped both sides come to terms with how to deal with the wage issue.

"The cooling off period has certainly given us adequate time to try to come to an amicable settlement," he said.

Open mind

Asked about the stand to be taken by Cuepacs and the NJCs at the meeting, he said that it would be the same as that taken earlier.

"Our action committee met last week and decided that we should go to any meeting with the Prime Minister with an open mind. We are prepared to listen to what he has to say and we will then present our case."

Encik Jamaluddin said the outcome of the meeting with Dr Mahathir and the latest situation on the wage issue would be reported to the Cuepacs Council which is scheduled to meet on Nov 3.

He said Cuepacs is grateful to Dr Mahathir for agreeing to meet the workers' representatives.

"We also wish to thank Encik Daim for his assistance in arranging the meeting with the Prime Minister," he added.

Last Tuesday, Encik Ahmad Nor, who is also the chairman of the NJC Co-ordinating Council, received a letter from Dr Mahathir confirming that he was ready to meet Cuepacs and the NJCs over the wage issue.