

It's on: PM's meeting with unions

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By LEANOS FERNANDEZ

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad will meet officials of Cuepacs and the five NJCs (Staff Side) here on Wednesday over the wage claims issue.

Cuepacs secretary-general Haji Jamaluddin Mohamed Isa said today the officials would "listen to what the Prime Minister has to say" on the claims for a better salary adjustment.

"We will attend the meeting with an open mind and are quite optimistic that the Government will come up with something positive," he said.

The meeting is scheduled to take place at the Prime Minister's Department. Five principal officials will represent Cuepacs and one each from the five NJCs.

Haji Jamaluddin said that after the meeting, the officials would study the suggestions thoroughly and decide on the next step.

He said the present "cooling-off" period between the Government and the unions gave everyone concerned a chance to hold discussions.

Touching on the Budget speech by the Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin, Haji Jamaluddin said: "The impression we got is that our claims have not been totally rejected yet and as such there is still a ray of hope" for members to get something.

He said all matters discussed during the meeting with the Prime Minister would be presented at the Nov. 3 special Cuepacs congress council meeting.

He also said the pre-council meeting of the five NJCs would be held that day at Cuepacs headquarters.

The Prime Minister's willingness to meet the unions was conveyed to Haji Jamaluddin and Cuepacs president Ahmad Nor by Encik Daim at his office.

Haji Jamaluddin said he and Encik Ahmad met Encik Daim for about half an hour and were briefed on the meeting with the Prime Minister.

"Encik Daim handed over a letter which stated that our meeting with the Prime Minister had been scheduled for Wednesday at 5.00pm," he said.