

Why Govt can't accept Cuepacs pay proposal

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. — It is not possible for the Government to accept Cuepacs' "sign first, pay later" proposal as a step towards settling the 19-month-old wage claims dispute of civil servants, the Prime Minister said this evening.

"We cannot do that because we do not know what the future will be," Datuk Seri, Dr Mahathir Mohamad told the Press at the Royal Malaysian Air Force Base upon his return from a two-day visit to Labuan.

No Government could predict how its future fin-

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ancial capacity would be, he said.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on the proposal yesterday by Cuepacs secretary-general Haji Jamaluddin Mohamed Isa that Cuepacs would not "fight" the Government if, after concluding the negotiations on the wage claims, it was found that there were no funds to pay the salary and allowance adjustments.

The Prime Minister said Cuepacs had proposed this

solution many times in the past but the Government could not do it.

"There is nothing new about that (the proposal), as they have told us (about it) a long time ago."

Under the proposal, the agreement was to be enforced only when both sides agreed the Government had the money to pay part or all of the agreed new salaries and allowances.

Both parties were to jointly monitor the financial situation of the Government every four months to decide on the Government's ability to pay.