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Anwar-salary

CABINET TO DISCUSS SALARY REVIEW TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 23 (Bernama) -- The Cabinet will discuss at its meeting tomorrow the RM2 billion salary revision for civil servants, the formula of distribution for which remains unresolved, Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim said today.

He said the latest information received by the government showed that the Public Services Department (PSD) could not settle the matter before the Hari Raya celebrations next month.

"We want the PSD and Cuepacs to come to an agreement on the matter and if this is achieved, it (payment) can be issued before Hari Raya Puasa. But based on information we received, the PSD could not do it," said Anwar, the Finance Minister.

Last Saturday, PSD Director-General Datuk Dr Mazlan Ahmad said although PSD had studied Cuepacs' new proposals, the salary review was unlikely to be implemented before Hari Raya Puasa in view of the time constraint.

It had always been the government's and Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's intention to make the payments before Hari Raya Puasa, Anwar told reporters after launching the ministry's "Appreciation of the Ramadan Month" programme here.

On reports alleging that Malaysia and several other Asian countries like Taiwan and China were dumping goods in Europe, he said the government had received a report on this and the International Trade and Industry Ministry was studying the matter.

On a Chinese newspaper report that the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) would reduce its dividend to 7.1 percent, Anwar said this was mere speculation as he had not yet received any proposal from EPF to this effect.

Anwar said the government needed to make a study before deciding how much dividend to declare.

In his speech, he said the people should be thankful that the country's achievements were even better than those of other Islamic countries.

In observing the month of Ramadan, Muslims should instil discipline and the spirit of reformation in themselves and their families so that they could become better Muslims, he said.

He urged Muslims to use the fasting month to improve their understanding of the religion and to enhance unity.

"Where does the fault lie? People of other religions do not fast and yet they have better discipline than us. Our young people fast but many of them are involved in social problems," he said. -- Bernama.