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Cuepacs-Reject

CUEPACS TO REJECT SALARY REVISION IF...

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 10 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs will reject the government's offer of a salary revision if it was implemented in contravention of the distribution formula proposed by the congress to the Public Services Department (PSD).

A resolution to that effect was unanimously adopted at the Cuepacs' 20th Convention which entered its second day today.

Cuepacs secretary general A.A. Ponniah said it wanted the government's offer to be submitted to the congress before the government implemented the salary adjustments.

"If the government implements the salary revision without referring it to Cuepacs first, we will officially reject it," he told reporters during a coffee-break at the convention.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr. Mahathir Mohamad, who opened the convention yesterday, urged Cuepacs to accept the government offer involving RM2 billion without imposing conditions.

Ponniah explained that though Cuepacs had earlier accepted the RM2 billion offer for salary revision, it would agree to the adjustments if they were made according to the formula proposed by the congress.

Although the government intended to implement the salary revision before Hari Raya Aidilfitri next month, it was not mandatory, he said.

He added: "We are willing to wait, even until after Hari Raya, so long as all parties especially the low-income group get a fair increase in wages."

Ponniah said Cuepacs viewed the government's offer to pay arrears before Hari Raya as a "trap" to force the congress to accept the offer in haste.

Cuepacs was ready to continue discussions with government in the event it rejected the salary revision and it was prepared to wait until a fair and satisfactory decision was achieved, he added.

He said the rejection would not be something new because in 1985 Cuepacs rejected a government offer which was not referred to the congress first before implementation.

At that time, Cuepacs staged a picket and, finally, the government invited the congress for discussions before the matter was settled, he added.

Ponniah said Cuepacs would give the mandate to a Supreme Council to be appointed to hold discussions with the government to resolve the matter.

A telegram on Cuepacs' decision today would be sent to Dr Mahathir and the PSD.

He said Cuepacs could not allow itself to be fooled in this matter because it involved the pride and honour of 848,000 civil servants throughout the country.

Earlier, delegates to the convention took part in a heated debate on the salary revision which went on for about two hours before the resolution was unanimously adopted.

Later today, the 900 delegates from 100 unions affiliated to Cuepacs will vote in the election for congress leaders for a three-year term. --

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