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DR MAHATHIR TO MEET CUEPACS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 20 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that he is looking for a suitable time to meet Cuepacs which has proposed a two-month bonus for all government employees this year.

"We are trying to find some dates when I'm free," he said when asked if he plans to meet Cuepacs.

On Cuepacs' proposal for a two-month bonus, Dr Mahathir said he wanted to meet the congress first before making a comment on the matter.

"Wait, just wait, I can't talk publicly about this thing...I want to see them first," he said after participating in a jogathon organised by Bakti, the welfare body of wives of ministers, deputy ministers and parliamentary secretaries at the Parliament House.

Yesterday, when asked whether the 800,000 government employees will be paid bonuses this year, Dr Mahathir said the government would do so if it could afford.

Cuepacs secretary-general N.Siva Subramaniam said yesterday that the congress had forwarded the proposal for a two-month bonus for all government employees with a minimum of RM800 to the Finance Ministry on Oct 10.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, who is Finance Minister, is expected to announce if bonus will be paid to government employees when he tables the 1997 Budget in the Dewan Rakyat on Oct 25. --
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