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Cuepacs- contest

HEATED CONTESTS EXPECTED AT CUEPACS CONVENTION TOMORROW

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 8 (Bernama) -- Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Service (Cuepacs), 20th convention tomorrow is expected to see heated contests in the leadership with both factions claiming to obtain support of the majority of delegates.

Both candidates vying for the post of president, incumbent Mohamed Mat Jid and his challenger, Haji Mustaffa Hassan, currently deputy president, today claimed in separate news conferences, that they command such support.

However, they said it was a family contest and would not split the movement.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is scheduled to open the convention and is expected to make an announcement on the payment of arrears and salary adjustments for the 840,000 public sector employees.

Haji Mustaffa said he was contesting at the request of members who wanted a new dimension in Cuepacs leadership that will bring about changes in the labour movement especially the public sector.

He said Cuepacs needed a new leadership with the strength and integrity to lead workers in the country into the 21st century towards a developed nation based on Vision 2020.

"I am confident I will be given the mandate to lead Cuepacs as most of the affiliates said they want a new administration in the unions so that their interests are not ignored," he said.

He said the Cuepacs leadership should have the commitment and spirit as well as the wisdom to meet future challenges so that the leadership of labour movements would also be relevant with the times.

"I am determined to create industrial stability and through it the labour movement can cooperate with the government to develop the country and also to enhance the economic position of workers," he said.

Mustaffa and other candidates made up of Mohd Yusof Haji Harman Shah and Kassim Shaikh Mohd (two posts of deputy presidents), Mohd Jamil Ismail (secretary general) Ahmad Ghani and Abdul Rahman Manan (deputy secretary-generals) issued a five-point manifesto.

Among points contained in the manifesto are upgrading Cuepacs quality of management and administration and to make Cuepacs, a respected public sector trade union.

Meanwhile, Mohamed also expressed confidence of obtaining support from the majority of delegates based on the effectiveness of leadership shown in the last three years with its stress on unity and discipline among affiliates.

At a news conference together with Cuepacs secretary-general, Siva Subramaniam, he said from meetings with Cuepacs affiliates nation-wide, the majority of them still required his leadership.

On a manifesto, Mohamed said his faction did not require one as "what is important is our ability to serve members and that even with a manifesto it does not mean it can be carried out."

Siva Subramaniam refuted allegation that the present Cuepacs leadership and the government was not having cordial relations causing the delay in the payment of arrears and salary adjustments to the public sector employees.

He said the Cuepacs leadership had successfully resolved the issue through negotiations with the government and was still waiting for a decision from the Public Services Department.

Mohamad also announced his support for Mohd Yusof Haji Harman Shah and Abdul Aziz Mohd Sultan as deputy presidents.

The convention is expected to be attended by 900 delegates from its 97 affiliates. -- Bernama