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Lim-Unions

UNIONS TOLD TO HELP IMPROVE CIVIL SERVICE

KUALA LUMPUR, July 30 (Bernama) -- The government wants the staff side of the National Joint Council (NJC) to contribute ideas for improving the country's administrative machinery and enhancing the productivity and quality of the civil service.

Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said today the government had entered a new era with the use of information technology like Internet to achieve the internationally recognised ISO 9000 standard.

"I would like to propose that this matter be discussed at the NJC level so that it could be successfully implemented," he said when opening the biennial delegates conference of the NJC for Management and Professional Group and science and technology workers in the Support Group.

Lim said the government would continue to practise the policy of allowing civil servants to form unions subject to the provisions of the law.

The government also adopted a liberal policy of allowing local trade unions to be affiliated to international organisations, he said.

"It is not proper for certain parties, especially international labour organisations, to accuse the government of curbing the freedom of workers to unionise," he said.

Lim said it was true that certain groups of workers were barred from joining any union but this prohibition was imposed for the sake of national interest and security.

Workers not allowed to unionise include policemen, soldiers, prison staff and personnel handling confidential matters, he said.

He said there were currently 223 unions in the public sector with a total membership of 317,000 although many more were eligible to join.

Cuepacs president Mohamed Mat Jid told reporters later that Cuepacs would hand a memorandum on its claims to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Among other things, Cuepacs wants the housing allowance of the estimated 400,000 workers in the Support Group to be increased to RM230.

Mohamed said it was up to Dr Mahathir to fix a date for the appointment. -- BERNAMA

AFY YBY