

07 FEB 1997

Mahathir-Cuepacs

CUEPACS CLAIM DEPENDS ON FINANCIAL SITUATION, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad says the increase in permanent housing allowance to RM230 a month sought by CUEPACS would depend on the government's financial position.

The Prime Minister said the Public Services Department was studying CUEPACS' claim contained in one of four memoranda it submitted to the JPA last month.

The other memoranda related to pension payment, the matrix system under the New Remuneration Scheme and Malaysia Incorporated.

At present, staff in the professional and management group receive a permanent housing allowance of RM110 a month and those in the support group RM90.

Speaking to reporters at the MCA Chinese New Year open house, held at the Wisma MCA here, Dr Mahathir said he was awaiting a report from the JPA regarding CUEPACS' claim.

"We want to wait for the JPA's views," he added.

Asked if there was any hope for the CUEPACS' claim, he said: "Don't know."

On whether the government proposed to pay a city allowance for civil servants working in the city, he said the government had not made any decision on it.

Meanwhile, CUEPACS president Mohamad Mat Jid, who welcomed Dr Mahathir's statement, hoped the JPA would expedite its study of the CUEPACS memoranda.

"We are only asking for fair consideration from the government," he said when contacted.

He said based on the country's current economy and financial situation of the government, CUEPACS' claim was reasonable and should be accepted by the government.

He expressed CUEPACS' full confidence in Dr Mahathir to resolve the matter "because we know that Dr Mahathir is a fair man."

The last time Mohamad met Dr Mahathir to discuss the CUEPACS' claim was at the Prime Minister's Department on Oct 29.

At that meeting, also attended by CUEPACS secretary-general S.Siva Subramaniam, Dr Mahathir was reported to have asked CUEPACS to submit its claims and proposals to the JPA.

Mohamad said to-date CUEPACS had not received any feedback from the JPA on the memoranda. -- BERNAMA

ES LDB