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Cuepacs: Review decision to freeze increment

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CUEPACS is appealing to the Government to reconsider imposing the freeze on category A and B government officers' annual increments, as announced by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in Parliament last Monday, its secretary-general, Encik Siva Subramaniam said yesterday.

"A lot of people will be affected by this move," he told reporters after co-chairing a meeting with Cuepacs' president, Encik Mohamad Mat Jid, at the its headquarters in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

"These two categories involve about 400,000 civil servants. This is a large number of people who will be affected. This is the problem," he said, adding that the affected people will take home less pay if the freeze on their annual increments is implemented.

"The civil sector already receives lower salaries as compared to the private sector. On top of that, they will only get one month bonus," Siva said. "We therefore appeal to the Government not to touch the civil sector." "Cuepacs, the Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Private Sector, will therefore seek a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim in order to discuss the matter," he added.

Anwar, who is also Finance Minister, announced a freeze on salary increments for Government officials in the top management group and categories A and B until economy fulll recovers from the slowdown.

He also announced a 10 per cent paycut for Cabinet ministers and deputy ministers, while Members of Parliament will have their allowances cut by 3 per cent.

Meanwhile, Mohamad Mat Jid said a freeze on increments will be greatly felt because it also includes pensions and gratuity.

As an alternative, Cuepacs suggested that the matrix salary schedule, which was introduced under the new regulations system 1992, be abolished as it was regarded as burdensome on the Government.

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