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Privatisation

DEFER PRIVATISATION, CUEPACS TELLS GOVT

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 14 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs, the public sector staff union, today urged the government to defer proposed privatisation of several public agencies in view of the country's economic woes.

Its president Mohamad Mat Jid told reporters after a Cuepacs council meeting here that now was not a good time as privatisation could further burden the people who would be the ones to pay for it ultimately.

Privatisation of the Works Department, the Perak Water Board, Universiti Malaya and some local authorities, for example, should be deferred, he said.

The council meeting reached a consensus to set up a task force to study in detail the effects of privatising those agencies, he said.

On the freeze on annual salary increments for categories A and B civil servants, Mohamad said the move, which involved some 400,000 officers, ought to be reviewed as it was bound to be problematic.

"A pay cut would be less painful. A freeze on increments would be felt more because it would affect pensions and other benefits," he said.

He suggested that the matrix system for vertical and diagonal salary increment under the New Remuneration System be abolished and unnecessary awards and receptions done away with.

Mohamad said the council would seek a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and his deputy Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim to suggest that salary increments be given in the form of a flat rate across-the-board. -- BERNAMA

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