

24 DEC 1997

Salaries

FIVE AGENCIES DEMAND SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 24 (Bernama) -- The 10,050 staff of five statutory bodies, who said they get paid less than other public sector colleagues, today appealed to the Cabinet to expedite their salary adjustments.

They are staff of the Social Security Organisation (Socso), the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN), the Armed Forces Fund Board and Tabung Haji, the pilgrims management and fund board.

Their appeal letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was forwarded by chairman of the joint council of unions of non-affiliated agencies Mohd Noor Abdullah to Dr Nuriah Moon, an aide of Dr Mahathir at the Prime Minister's Office here.

Dr Mahathir is currently on leave.

Mohd Noor told reporters later the agencies' staff have not benefited from salary adjustments according to the New Remuneration System (NRS) on Jan 1 last year.

He said their salary adjustments would not incur the government any financial implication as all the agencies are self-financing and could afford to pay the readjusted salaries.

Mohd Noor said the agencies' staff were now being paid according to a different remuneration system in accordance with the agencies' status as statutory bodies.

As such, he said, they were being deprived of fixed compensation for housing and the civil service allowance paid under the NRS.

"These make our salaries far less than those getting the NRS salaries," he said.

According to Mohd Noor, the joint council had submitted the case of the agencies' staff to the Public Services Department which he said had in principle approved their application for NSR salary readjustments.

"It is now up to the Cabinet to approve it. We don't intend to stage a picket to back our demand as we believe the matter can be resolved through negotiations," he said.

In his letter to the prime minister, Mohd Noor said he stated that staff of the five agencies were demoralised and felt that their welfare was being neglected. -- BERNAMA

RAZ rn