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Cuepacs-Memorandum

REPORT ON CUEPACS MEMORANDUM READY END OF THIS MONTH

KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 (Bernama) -- The Public Services Department (PSD) is expected to finalise a report on the four Cuepacs memorandums including the one asking for an increase in housing allowances for civil servants by the end of this month.

Cuepacs Secretary-General N.Siva Subramaniam said today Cuepacs had been informed by the PSD that the PSD report was being finalised and would be submitted to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

"We hope the report will be ready soon and the government will give a favourable response to the request by civil servants," he told reporters at Cuepacs headquarters here.

Cuepacs submitted four memorandums to the PSD on Jan 10 in line with Dr Mahathir's directive at a meeting last October.

The other memorandum is on the new pension formula, Malaysia Incorporated and the matrix scale.

Cuepacs has asked for the housing allowance for the management and professional group as well as that of the support group to be increased to RM230. At present the management and professional group received RM110 with RM90 for those in the support group.

Siva Subramaniam said the government should provide more living quarters for civil servants if the request could not be met and also to replace the number of such premises demolished for development projects.

He also said that Cuepacs was not called by the PSD for discussions prior to the preparation of the report.

"This shows that our memorandum are comprehensive, clear and in detail," he said.

He also voiced Cuepacs' concern on the rising cost for medical treatment which burdened the civil servants and said Cuepacs would meet Health Minister Datuk Chua Jui Meng as soon as possible to discuss the issue.

Siva Subramaniam who is also the National Union of the Teaching Profession (NUTP) Secretary-General said the union would hold a meeting with the Education Ministry on Saturday in connection with the request by teachers for optional retirement at the age of 40, like those given to other civil servants.

At present male teachers can opt for optional retirement upon reaching 50 years while the woman teachers can do so at the age of 45. Other public servants except the nurses are allowed to go on optional retirement at the age of 40.

"There are many teachers who no longer have interest in teaching and want to retire but cannot do so. This will affect the nation's education quality," he said.

Siva Subramaniam said Cuepacs had been invited to join trade missions organised by the International Trade and Industry Ministry this year and this opportunity would be used to galvanise Malaysia's image abroad as a country ideal for investment.

Cuepacs also planned to set up an education foundation for its members, he added. -- BERNAMA

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