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Cuepacs-Bonus

CUEPACS TO APPEAL FOR BONUS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 17 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs, the largest public sector employees union, today said it will appeal to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to reconsider paying out bonus to civil servants for this year.

"Cuepacs will make an appeal to the Prime Minister again to consider giving a bonus this year, " said president for the umbrella body for government unions Abdul Aziz Mohd Sultan.

Last Wednesday, Dr Mahathir said it was quite difficult for the government to pay civil servants bonus this year due to the current national economic situation.

Abdul Aziz said Cuepacs understood the country's economic and financial situation but government workers had to make an appeal due to several pressing reasons, one of which was soaring price of essential items since 1997.

Public sector workers were also looking forward to the year-end bonus which would come handy to prepare for their children's schooling in 1999, he said at a press conference at the union's headquarters here.

Government workers, Abdul Aziz said, now were cash-strapped because overtime, travelling and other allowances had been slashed resulting in reduced take-home pay.

Moreover, he said, the bonus request was appropriate because Cuepacs had postponed all claims to the government since 1996 as its sacrifice to help the country manage the economic crisis.

"Cuepacs had postponed its claims for new pension rates, salary review and fixed housing allowances," Abdul Aziz said.

Despite all this, he said, civil servants continued to serve the government administrative machinery well and helped in attracting both local and overseas investors.

Cuepacs groups 103 unions with a total number of 250,000 members.

Aziz also announced that Cuepacs will hold its 21st convention here from Dec 2 to 4.

-- BERNAMA

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