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Cuepacs-Incentive

CUEPACS APPEALS TO PRIME MINISTER FOR A LITTLE EXTRA MONEY

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- The 800,000-strong Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) today resolved to appeal to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad for an "incentive payment" instead of the one-month bonus which the government is unable to give because of the country's economic situation.

Cuepacs president Abdul Aziz Mohd Sutan said today Cuepacs decided on appealing to the Prime Minister at a meeting attended by 70 delegates representing its affiliates here.

Civil servants were in dire need of some additional financial assistance to meet expenses of their school-going children in the new year and also in view of the increase in prices, he told reporters after the meeting at Wisma Cuepacs.

He said the additional financial help from the government would enable the civil servants to celebrate Hari Raya Puasa in January as overtime allowance had been reduced and the monthly take-home pay of civil servants was now smaller.

"When the word bonus was not mentioned in the 1999 Budget, we were very disappointed. Eventhough bonus was not mentioned, we appeal to YAB Prime Minister to consider a little additional money for civil servants," Mohd said.

Cuepacs also reiterated its loyalty to the Yang di-Pertuang Agong and its full support for the Prime Minister and the government and strongly objected to all illegal actions such as assemblies and demonstrations mounted by supporters of former Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he said.

Cuepacs also urged the authorities to exercise care when implementing the law to check illegal demonstrations so that the innocent were not affected.

He said Cuepacs had received complaints from its affiliates that civil servants who were not involved in the reform movements had also been detained by police.

"The government is now implementing flexible working hours and some civil servants were detained while waiting for their bus, while eating at stalls and on their way home," he said.

On the one Saturday a month holiday for civil servants, he said Cuepacs would discuss the 15-minute extra work on weekdays from Monday to Friday with the Public Services Department (PSD).

He said Cuepacs did not agree to the extra 15 minutes work on weekdays.

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