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Cuepacs to appeal 'no bonus' decision

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KUALA LUMPUR, Sun. - Cuepacs is seeking a meeting with Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to appeal the decision not to pay civil servants any bonus this year.

Its president Abdul Aziz Mohd Sultan said today Cuepacs hoped to convey the many problems faced by government employees, especially those in the lower income group, to Dr Mahathir at the meeting.

He said many of the affiliates were confident the Prime Minister would be able to come up with an acceptable solution.

"We are not demanding that bonus be paid but just want to explain the present situation such as the effects of increases in the prices of goods," he said at a Press conference at the Cuepacs headquarters.

He said the bonus would come in handy at this time, especially for parents with many schoolgoing children.

Abdul Aziz said despite cuts in allowances and perks, civil servants had managed to maintain their productivity.

He said Cuepacs realised the difficulties faced by the government; which is why it postponed negotiations for a review of salaries, allowances and incentives - an exercise last carried out in 1992.

Abdul Aziz said Cuepacs also welcomed the decision to declare one Saturday in a month a holiday for civil servants.

However, it disagreed with the proposal that the time lost be replaced by extending the working hours by 15 minutes on the other five working days.

Cuepacs also renewed its call for a five-day working week for the public sector.

On its triennial delegates' conference from Dec 2 to 4 which will be opened by Dr Mahathir, Abdul Aziz said the posts of president and secretary-general will see a one-to-one contest.

Siva Subramaniam of the National Union Teaching Profession will contest Mohd Yusop Harmain Shah of the Malayan Technical Services Union for the president's post.

The two candidates for the secretary-general post are Abd Rahman Manan of the Customs Officers' Union and Abd Rahim Mahad of Amalgamated National Union of Local Authority Employees.

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