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Holiday

CUEPACS TO CONDUCT SIX-MONTH STUDY ON REST DAY

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 22 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs, the largest public sector employees union, will conduct a six-month study to evaluate the effectiveness of the one Saturday or Thursday rest day per month for civil servants, its president S. Siva Subramaniam said today.

He said the study would help Cuepacs substantiate its case to ask the government for a five-day working week for civil servants.

"Cuepacs lauds the government's move to implement the one Saturday (or Thursday) rest day per month. But this is not exactly an off-day since the civil servants have to work longer hours," he told Bernama.

The government has fixed the first Saturday or Thursday of each month as the rest day.

When tabling the 1999 Budget last Oct 23 Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced an extra rest day in a month for civil servants as part of efforts to create a caring society by them visiting parents and relatives and in so doing, they would also stimulate domestic tourism.

Yesterday Public Services Department Director-General Datuk Samsudin Osman said in a circular that starting Jan 1 public sector workers would have to work 15 minutes longer on a full working day and seven minutes less on a half-working day to justify the rest day.

Siva said the proposed Cuepacs study would view implications of the rest day on efforts towards boosting domestic tourism.

"We will see whether there are more motorists using the highways on such rest days and its effects on the income of traders along the routes," he said.

The rest day would also help save electricity in government offices affected by the ruling, he said.

"I hope department heads will implement it without giving excuses," he said.

Siva said Cuepacs would ask the government for a five-day week for the public sector, similar to the practice in the private sector, when the economy recovers.

-- BERNAMA

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