

03 NOV 1998

Mahathir-Cuepacs

MAHATHIR TO SEE CUEPACS OVER APPEAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 3 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will meet Cuepacs officials over its appeal that civil servants be given incentives to replace the annual bonus which could not be paid out due the economic downturn.

"I will meet them," he told reporters after witnessing a parts handing over ceremony between ShinMaywa company of Japan and Airod, and between MacNab company of the United States and Airod.

Dr Mahathir, who is also First Finance Minister, said the meeting would be made as soon as possible.

He was commenting on a statement by Cuepacs president Abdul Aziz Mohd Sutan who made the appeal last Sunday.

Abdul Aziz said 70 Cuepacs affiliate members agreed to make the appeal citing reasons that civil servants needed the incentives to alleviate the burden of increase in prices of essential items and to help low income staffers to fund their children's schooling.

Asked to comment on the decision of Judge Datuk S. Augustine Paul not to give observer status to local and foreign organisations for the trial of expelled Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, Dr Mahathir said they appeared to be here not to watch the trial but were putting the courts and the judges on trial.

"They should not come here to oversee the judge as if they are so superior that they know better how justice is administered, that they must oversee our judges whether we know how to administer justice or not," he said.

The Prime Minister said the observers could attend the trial if there were enough seats in the court.

--BERNAMA

AFY GM ABG