

30 DEC 1998

Holiday-Saturday

TERENGGANU PICKS FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AS HOLIDAY

KUALA TERENGGANU, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Civil servants in Terengganu are confused over the state government's decision to fix the first Saturday of each month as a holiday.

State Secretary Datuk Baharuddin Ismail, in a circular dated Dec 23 and distributed to government departments in the state, said the decision was reached in a state executive council meeting on Dec 16.

For 1999, the dates fixed as the first Saturday of each month holiday are Jan 2, Feb 6, March 6, April 3, May 8, June 12, July 3, Aug 7, Sept 4, Oct 2, Nov 6 and Dec 4.

This is in contrast with Public Services Department director-general Datuk Samsudin Osman's statement on Dec 21 that states having Sunday as a weekly holiday will have the first Saturday as the monthly holiday and the first Thursday for states having Friday as the weekly holiday.

Friday is the weekly holiday in Terengganu.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, in presenting the 1999 Budget in October this year, announced the additional rest day as a move to create a caring society.

Following the state government circular on the matter, Bernama here has received calls from state civil servants for clarification.

One caller said the state's decision meant his holiday would be on a different day from his wife's who is a federal civil servant.

CUEPACS president N. Siva Subramaniam, when contacted today, said he would send a telegramme on the matter to Terengganu Menteri Besar Tan Sri Wan Mokhtar Ahmad tomorrow.

CUEPACS is the umbrella body of public sector unions.

He hoped the state government would abide by the directive issued by the Public Services Department.

He added that the state government needed to clarify the matter to avoid confusion among civil servants.

State Secretary Datuk Baharuddin Ismail could not be reached as he is on leave.

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