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Cuepacs confident of bonus for civil servants

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THE Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) is confident that the Government will consider its demand for a minimum bonus of RM1,000 for the civil servants.

Cuepacs president N Siva Subramaniam said the Congress expects the bonuses to be paid before the end of this year.

Siva Subramaniam said the Government will see Cuepacs' proposal positively as it would contribute to the country's economic recovery through the expenditure by the civil servants.

"Cuepacs is confident that the Government will consider and make a decision soon. We hope that the bonus is paid before the end of this year," he told a news conference right after the 35-minute meeting with Daim at the Finance Ministry in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Cuepacs is proposing for an annual bonus of RM1,000 for those earning less than RM1,000 a month and a month's bonus for those with monthly salary of more than RM1,000.

In the meeting, Sivasubramaniam who was accompanied by Cuepacs secretary-general Abdul Rahman Manan, handed over the congress' memorandum to Daim, to be given to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad. The memorandum, comprising among others, Cuepacs' proposals on bonuses, pension formula, emergency leave, a review of the matrix system and wage adjustments.

Siva Subramaniam, who is also National Union of Teaching Profession secretary-general, said Cuepacs is seeking a meeting with the prime minister soon to discuss contents of the memorandum.

He said the Congress has proposed for a special unit within the Public Services Department (PSD) to handle matters pertaining to the education sector.

The education sector needs special attention from the Government as 61 per cent or 330,000 people from the total 550,000 government servants are from the teaching field, he said.

The union has also proposed a new pension formula, including the extension of the retirement age to 58 from the current 55.

According to him, Cuepacs' study found that that Government will save millions of ringgit on pension payments if the retirement age for civil servants is extended.

The study is also supported by United Nation Development Programme's and the International Labour Organisation's reports which stated that the Government is actually spending more if the retirement age is at 55 in terms of pension payments.

The move will not affect new entrants to the labour market, he added. Cuepacs is also proposing for the pension to be paid based on the year of service compared with the current payment, which is not more than half of the last-drawn salary.

During the meeting, Cuepacs had also informed Daim on its plan to organise a roadshow to educate civil servants on the roles and responsibility so that they will not be involved unhealthy activities such as the illegal gatherings.

"We want to explain to them that they were appointed by the Yang diPertuan Agong.

"Thus, they are responsible to the public as their wages are paid by the public," he said, adding that Cuepacs is not preventing its members to be

active in any political party.

Abdul Rahman said Daim had promised Cuepacs to get the financing to organise the nationwide seminars either through the government allocation or private sponsorship.

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