

# Cuepacs says sorry for causing confusion

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KUALA LUMPUR: Cuepacs apologised to the Finance Ministry yesterday over the confusion caused following the statement by Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam on bonus for civil servants this year.

Its secretary-general Abdul Rahman Manan said Cuepacs indeed understood and appreciated the Government's assurance that the request for two months' bonus depended on the Government's financial affordability.

"From the contents of the letter, (issued by Treasury Secretary-General Tan Sri Dr Samsudin Hitam) civil servants and Cuepacs are confi-

dent that the Government will consider giving bonus and it is not contractual.

"Actually, Cuepacs asked for two months' bonus to enable government employees to spend on their children's school expenses, besides stimulating the country's economy," he said.

On Thursday, Siva Subramaniam referred to Dr Samsudin's letter, saying that the Government had rejected Cuepacs' demand for two months' bonus but agreed to consider giving a bonus for this year.

The Finance Ministry on Friday expressed regret over Cuepacs' misinterpretation of the letter that was only a gen-

eral response to Abdul Rahman's letter dated Aug 14.

Abdul Rahman said the request for bonus would be forwarded to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, next week.

From the Government's assurance as stated in Dr Samsudin's letter, Cuepacs was confident that Dr Mahathir would make the announcement when tabling the 2002 Budget in parliament on Oct 19, he said.

He said the announcement would ease the anxiety and the uncertainty faced by government employees every year over the bonus issue. —  
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