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Cuepacs-Bonus

CUEPACS ASKS FOR TWO MONTHS' BONUS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs hopes that civil servants will be paid a bonus of two months' salary for this year.

Its president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said the government had earlier stated that it had much money and as such it should be able to pay bonus to its employees.

He said although the government earlier faced an economic downturn, it was still able to pay the bonus then compared to the government's strong financial position now.

"We hope the government will not disappoint the workers' feelings, previously they received bonus every year and this is a good track record," he told reporters at the official opening of Cuepacs' 22nd Convention, here today.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi officially opened the three-day convention which would also choose leaders of the umbrella body for unions of public sector employees for the 2001/2003 term.

Siva also gave an assurance that public sector employees would spend the bonus in the country for various purposes including for their children's schooling as well as preparation for the festive seasons.

If the government paid two months' bonus, it was hoped that employers in the private sector would also do likewise to enable the people to spend and help in the country's economic recovery.

Siva, however, declined to comment further on the request for the bonus as it was feared to raise various speculation.

"Just wait for the budget, I don't want to speculate as prices of goods will rise and it's up to the government to make whatever decision," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also Finance Minister, will table the 2002 Budget on Oct 19.

Earlier in his speech, Siva hoped the government would consider amending the pension scheme for former civil servants from half of the last-drawn salary presently to two-thirds of the last-drawn salary and to introduce a minimum pay of RM1,000 per month.

-- BERNAMA

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