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Cuepacs-Bonus

CUEPACS SAYS SORRY FOR CONFUSION OVER BONUS ISSUE

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 6 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs today apologised to the Finance Ministry over the confusion caused following the statement by Cuepacs President Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam on bonus payment for civil servants this year.

Its Secretary-General Abdul Rahman Manan said Cuepacs, the umbrella body for public sector unions, 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 were confident 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 for their children's school expenses besides to stimulate the country's economy," he told Bernama.

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 yesterday expressed regret over Cuepacs' misinterpretation of the contents of the letter which was only a general 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.

"Cuepacs is aware of the country's economic position, we are sorry for any confusion caused," he added.

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