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Abdullah-NRS

DECISION ON NRS AFTER GOV'T SCRUTINISES PSD PROPOSAL

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 2 (Bernama) -- A decision on the position of the New remuneration Scheme (NRS) would be made after the government has scrutinised the proposal expected to be submitted by the Public Service Department (PSD) at the end of the year.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said the PSD and Cuepacs were still at the discussion stage at the moment.

"Whatever it is, our decision is aimed at making the public service more efficient and viable, which will be able to attract everyone to join the Civil Service.

"What is important is that we are not seen as dragging our feet in making a recommendation to the government, this is important," he told reporters after officiating the 22nd Cuepacs convention here today.

He said this when asked to comment on the latest development concerning the Cuepacs' proposal that the government reviewed the NRS which was said to have many weaknesses especially on the annual performance assessment for salary increment for civil servants.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had agreed in March to review the scheme.

Abdullah said the government would not decide on the matter hastily as it was a major decision and involved many quarters.

"It's a major decision. Be patient," he said.

However, he said, the government appreciated the Cuepacs' work tradition which always resolved whatever matters arising through negotiations.

Meanwhile, PSD Director-General Datuk Seri Jamaluddin Ahmad Damanhuri, who was also present, said so far three discussions had been held between the PSD and Cuepacs concerning the NRS.

"We will continue to hold discussions with Cuepacs from time to time," he said.

Cuepacs president Datuk Siva Subramaniam, when met after the function, said the congress was satisfied with the discussions held with the PSD so far.

"I'm confident that the report would be ready as requested by Cuepacs and it's up to the Government whether to accept or reject any proposal," he said.

He was also confident that there would be positive changes in the NRS aimed at drawing up a more attractive remuneration system to woo the younger group to join the public sector which would be on par with the private sector.

Earlier in his speech, Abdullah said the government had always been concerned over complaints raised and recommendations made by Cuepacs and others regarding the welfare of civil servants.

"Wherever appropriate, whatever is good for the people and government, it is the government's decision to improve whatever weaknesses and provide the necessary facilities," he said.

He said the government had set up several bodies to look after the interests of the public sector and the parties concerned should use these bodies to channel their proposals.

The three-day convention beginning today, among other things, would choose new leaders for the congress for the 2001/2003 session.

-- BERNAMA

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