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Mahathir-Council

DR MAHATHIR WANTS CHIEF SECRETARY TO SUBMIT REPORT ON JOINT COUNCILS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 1 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he will study whether the government agencies and departments that have set up departmental joint councils (DJCs) to resolve problems have held their dialogues as stipulated.

The prime minister said he had asked for a report from Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman on the DJCs, panels comprising representatives from the management and staff that meet several times a year to discuss problems arising within the department.

He said he only wanted to know whether or not there were dialogues, not in detail, because sometimes if there are no reports no dialogues were held.

He expected to get the report every three or four months, he told reporters after speaking at the 2001 Workers Day Rally for public sector employees at the National Institute of Public Administration, here.

He said this when asked to comment further on the matter which he had touched on in the dialogue with the workers at the rally.

Earlier, Cuepacs president N.Siva Subramaniam, in his speech, said that nearly half of the government departments had yet to set up DJCs and this had made it difficult to settle departmental problems.

Cuepacs was earlier reported to have said that some departmental heads regarded the DJCs as a platform for subordinates to expose their weaknesses and were therefore reluctant to set up such councils in their departments or agencies.

Statistics show that so far only half of the 2,000 DJCs that are supposed to set up DJCs under service circular 2/1992 had done so.

Samsudin, when met by reporters at the rally, said he and Cuepacs had repeatedly urged departments that had yet to set up DJCs to do because the circular had been distributed long ago.

"I have repeatedly asked the department heads but some have still not set up (their DJCs) and some have done but have not held their meetings." he said.

Following the prime minister's directive, Samsudin said he and the Public Service Department (PSD) would get feedback from the ministries and departments on the matter.

He said the workers not only raised issues on pay and allowances but also other matters related to the workplace like the need for covered parking space.

"What's important is that we should not view these meetings as a burden but as the best formula to hear complaints, suggestions and views from the workers," he said.

He said the department heads, as human resource managers, should know about these matters to better manage these important assets.

-- BERNAMA

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