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Cuepacs-Squatters

EVEN GOVT OFFICERS LIVING IN SQUATTER AREAS - CUEPACS

SUNGAI PETANI, March 16 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs is shocked to learn that civil servants living in squatter settlements in the Klang Valley include even those in the management and professional group.

The civil service umbrella union came to know of this from its ongoing house ownership survey among government employees, its president N.Siva Subramaniam said today.

He said the union knew all this while that many lower-ranking government employees stayed in squatter areas as they could not afford to rent or own houses in areas such as the Klang Valley.

But it was sad to find out that even higher-ranking civil servants were forced to live in such places, he told reporters after attending a seminar on women development organised by the National Union of Teaching Profession.

"We want all civil servants throughout the country to own a comfortable house. At this stage, we are working closely with the Selangor government and Kuala Lumpur City Hall to take civil servants out of squatter areas," he said.

Siva Subramaniam said he met Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on the matter two days ago and the prime minister agreed to give serious attention to it.

On the house ownership survey, the Cuepacs chief said it was being carried out throughout the country to determine the number of civil servants who did not own a house.

Upon completion of the survey at the end of next month, Cuepacs would submit proposals to the federal and state governments, he said.

One proposal, he said, was for civil servants to be allowed to apply for government housing loan immediately upon appointment to a permanent position, instead of having to wait for three years to be confirmed in the post.

-- BERNAMA

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