

30 DEC 2001

Mahathir-Cuepacs

MEDICAL CHECK-UP: CUEPACS MUST BE CLEARER, SAYS DR MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 30 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today Cuepacs must be clearer in its proposal that civil servants be required to undergo a medical check-up upon reaching the age of 40.

The prime minister said the proposal must be studied carefully so that its objective was transparent and clear to avoid problems in future and was not just to satisfy one or two parties.

"We have to know. Does it mean that if a person is unhealthy we have to sack him or her? If we want to examine, of course the healthy can work, the unhealthy can't."

"(We) don't know whether that's what it (Cuepacs) wants," he told reporters after attending Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Abdul Hamid Zainal Abidin's Hari Raya open house in Bandar Tun Hussein Onn here.

He was asked to comment on a statement by Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam on Friday that Cuepacs, the umbrella body for civil service unions, that it would propose to the government to make it mandatory for the 900,000-odd civil servants in the country to go for a medical check-up upon reaching the age of 40.

The proposal was made based on a report that nearly 40 per cent of Malaysians suffered from chronic diseases like diabetes and heart-related problems.

Siva Subramaniam was reported as saying that the mandatory check-up for civil servants before joining the service was no longer relevant to the current situation.

Earlier, Deputy Health Minister Datuk Seri Suleiman Mohamed said the ministry would give its full commitment to the proposal if the government agreed to it.

-- BERNAMA

RBZ HK JK