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Cuepacs-Government

NOT WRONG FOR CUEPACS TO SUPPORT LEADERSHIP, SAYS SIVA

KUALA LUMPUR, May 1 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs President, N. Siva Subramaniam said today it was not wrong for the congress to give its full support for government leadership which has always paid attention to the various problems of civil servants in the country.

He said against the backdrop of sluggish economic conditions, leaders of employees' unions should not take the opportunity to show that they are much stronger than the government.

Siva said Cuepacs was close with the Prime Minister as when workers had a problem "he was the first person to be approached".

"What is wrong in we backing the government leadership. When there is a problem, these are the leaders who help us. We should reciprocate with gratitude and fondness," he said in his speech in conjunction with the 2001 Workers Day Rally for public sector employees here today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad also delivered a keynote address at the rally attended by about 1,000 people.

Siva said the concept of smart partnership mooted by the Prime Minister was now being emulated by Cuepacs.

He said although Cuepacs made many claims such as for a better remuneration system, this had however united public servants when the country was going through a recession.

As a democratic country, union leaders in this country are free to criticise the government unlike the situation in other countries, he said.

He added that the congress was of the opinion that employees' problems must be solved through two-way dialogue and not through demonstration and protest.

Siva also said Cuepacs would carry out various programmes to help their members which included the ongoing group insurance scheme. To date, about RM4 million had been paid out to members who have succumbed to ailments and other problems.

He called on civil servants to enhance their knowledge especially in information and communication technology, including taking advantage of training programmes offered by the government and the congress, in an effort to face present challenges.

Siva also asked heads of departments to use national joint councils to solve workers problems at the department level.

-- BERNAMA

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