

New salary system to be announced

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PETALING JAYA: The Malaysian Remuneration System (MRS) for police and armed forces personnel will be announced tomorrow.

Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said the Public Service Department (PSD) and the Armed Forces Council are expected to hold a briefing on the details of the MRS for uniformed bodies.

"Under the MRS, all civil servants, police and armed forces personnel will have their salaries upgraded according to their categories.

"I don't know whether the new remuneration exercise will involve both the officers and rank-and-file personnel.

"Please wait for the PSD announcement on the de-

tails," Siva said in a telephone interview yesterday.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced last month that the MRS would be introduced by Nov 1, affecting some 950,000 civil servants, and police and armed forces personnel.

He added that the Government would incur an additional cost of RM302mil following the implementation of the MRS.

The MRS system will do away with the controversial appraisal method under the New Remuneration System (NRS), with many civil servants complaining that it was open to abuse as heads of departments had the sole discretion on promotions and recommendations on merit increments.

Under the MRS, employees will be appraised on their

work competency and professional development.

The Defence Ministry, in a move to attract more professionals to join its ranks and to improve the quality of its human resources, had announced several salary and educational perks for its personnel recently.

Among them were that servicemen taking up first degree courses in local and foreign universities will receive full salaries. Previously, only officers pursuing master's degrees or rank-and-file personnel doing diploma courses were paid full salaries.

It was also decided that all Malaysian armed forces academy graduates would start off with the rank of Kapten.

Currently, they are accorded the rank of Leftenan.