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Cuepacs-SSM

CUEPACS ACCEPTS SSM BUT WANTS HIGHER INCREMENT FOR SUPPORT GROUP

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 20 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs today accepted implementation of the Malaysian Remuneration System (SSM), which replaces the New Remuneration System (SSB) for government employees, but wants the RM15 increment for the Support Group to be increased.

Its President, Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam, said all 130 Cuepacs affiliates agreed to the implementation of SSM from Nov 1.

However, they are unhappy over the RM15 increment given to the Support Group involving 600,000 low-income employees and urged the government to consider a more reasonable amount, he said.

"The union leaders want disparity in salaries with the other groups to be narrowed. They want a more reasonable figure to commensurate with the rising cost of living," he told reporters after a one-day seminar on SSM jointly organised by Cuepacs and Public Services Department (PSD) at a hotel here today.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced on July 29 that the SSM would be implemented based on the work efficiency and knowledge of government employees who numbered close to 950,000.

Dr Mahathir also announced RM15 increment for the Support Group, RM65 for Management and Professional Group and RM110 for Top Management Group.

Asked on the reasonable rate sought by Cuepacs for the Support Group, Siva Subramaniam said Cuepacs would propose the figure at a meeting with Dr Mahathir later.

"The Government has always been concerned because we do not make unreasonable demands. We are confident and positive and promised to continue working hard to improve our services to the people," he said.

Siva Subramaniam said the Cuepacs Council, in its meeting today, also decided to appeal to the government to consider several matters, including speeding up the study of allowances which Cuepacs had long been asking to be increased or reviewed.

Among them are civil service allowance, housing allowance and hotel allowance, he said.

Cuepacs also wants the efficiency evaluation test, especially for the Support Group, to be simplified so as not to be burdensome to employees under the group, he said.

Siva Subramaniam said Cuepacs was drawing up a method to ensure brighter career prospects for the Support Group as it was the backbone group of the Malaysian civil service.

"We do not want an office assistant to retire as an office assistant. We want better promotional opportunities," he said.

Cuepacs also wants the government to consider giving two-tier salary for appointment grades similar to that enjoyed by those on promotion grades.

At present, appointment grades have three-tier salary, promotion grades (two-tier) and top management grade (single-tier).

"Many are of the opinion that SSM has many changes and its objectives are clear. Nevertheless, we want to improve the fate of the Support Group. We want the prime minister to intervene to resolve the problems," he added.

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