

02 AUG 2002
Cuepacs-Bonus
CUEPACS HOPES FOR TWO-MONTH BONUS

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 2 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs hopes the government will pay two months bonus to its 960,000 workers this year.

Its Secretary-General, Abdul Rahman Manan said Cuepacs' request for the bonus was recently handed to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Finance Minister.

"We hope the bonus for civil servants will not be left out this year because it's important for civil servants to prepare for their children's schooling," he said when contacted today.

The 2003 Budget will be tabled in Parliament on Sept 20.

Cuepacs put forward the request as it was confident the government would be able to afford it now with the national economic growth, said Abdul Rahman.

Abdul Rahman said the government was able to afford the bonus payments previously despite facing an economic slowdown.

In last year's budget, Dr Mahathir announced a half-month bonus or at least RM1,000 and 10 per cent increase in basic salary for civil servants in January 2002.

Cuepacs was confident civil servants would be more committed after the government replaced New Remuneration Scheme (SSB) with the Malaysian Remuneration Scheme (SSM) which would come into effect on Nov 1, he said.

The government's agreement to replace the SSB with SSM was not related to Cuepacs' demands for the bonus, said Abdul Rahman.

Meanwhile, he said Cuepacs received many enquiries from Support Group staff who were not satisfied with their proposed RM15 pay-rise.

Abdul Rahman said differences in the salary increase between the Support Group was very wide from RM65 increase for Management Group and Professionals and RM110 for Top Management Group.

Cuepacs would hold a meeting with the Public Service Department to brief union leaders about SSM on Aug 20, he said.

Cuepacs would then hold a special meeting to get the response of union leaders and possible suggestions for amendments on several matters not agreeable in the SSM.

"However we hope all parties will receive the new system, after asking the government to replace the SSB for such a long time but there is a possibility of some amendments to the SSM," he said.

On Monday Dr Mahathir announced the replacement of SSB with SSM which would be based on improving expertise and knowledge of civil servants aimed at career development and salary increment.

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