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Sarawak-Incentive

CIVIL SERVANTS IN S'WAK TO RECEIVE RM1 MLN IN CASH INCENTIVES, SAYS SS

KUCHING, Oct 4 (Bernama) -- About 24,000 civil servants in Sarawak will receive cash incentives in November totalling RM1 million under the new Sistem Saraan Malaysia (SSM) salary scheme for government employees, State Secretary Datuk Amar Abdul Aziz Husain said today.

"We will bring up the matter at the State Cabinet meeting on Oct 17," he told reporters after attending a seminar on "Rivers as the arteries of our lives: safe, clean, and natural rivers," here.

He said the incentive payment would definitely bring cheers to civil servants in the state.

He said the incentive payment was in addition to the one-month bonus, totalling more than RM4 million, for government employees as announced in the 2003 Budget by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, to be paid by year-end.

Aziz said the state government was waiting for a circular on the bonus payment from the federal government.

He also said the State Budget for next year would be tabled at the State Legislative Assembly on Nov 28.

The budget, among others, would be aimed at hastening development projects in the state, he said.

Earlier, in his speech, Aziz, who is also Sarawak Development Institute chairman, said the rapid pace of development in the state would certainly had its toll on the sustainability of rivers but such degradation had yet to reach alarming levels given the abundance of the state's river resources.

The trends were there and as such, early consolidation efforts towards an appropriate river management was inevitable, he said.

The effort, however, needed the participation of the public and private sectors and the general masses, he said.

"We, who are present here, will certainly have a part to play. I believe we should be working with rather than against the forces of nature," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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