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PSD wants meetings every three months

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - The Public Service Department, irked by the delay in setting up Joint Consultative Councils at some ministries and government departments, has directed that senior management and employee representatives meet at least once in three months.

The ruling takes effect immediately.

Minutes of these meetings must be submitted to the PSD within two weeks, to enable it to monitor that the meetings are held as directed.

The JCC provides an avenue for senior management staff at a ministry, government department or statutory body, to meet other employees to discuss and solve work-related problems.

PSD director-general Tan Sri Jamaluddin Ahmad Damanhuri said the secretaries-general of ministries were responsible for the setting up and running of JCCs at the ministry level.

"The JCCs are needed to ensure a more efficient running of government agencies and that a good working relationship is in place between the management and employees.

"It is also an avenue for employees to give opinions, find solutions to work-related problems, employee welfare and the running of a particular organisation," he said in a service circular dated June 11.

The first directive on the establishment of JCCs at all ministries and government departments and agencies was issued in 1992 soon after the introduction of the New Remuneration Scheme.

In May last year, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad directed ministries and agencies to submit regular reports to him on meetings between them and unions in the civil service.

Dr Mahathir issued the directive after Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam claimed that half of the JCCs were not functioning.

The Prime Minister had given the reply in his speech at a gathering to mark Workers' Day at the National Institute of Public Administration in Bukit Kiara.

The PSD also admonished ministries and other government agencies which had set up JCCs which had practically no functions.

He said at the department level, the JCC must be headed by the director-general, while the general manager would be in charge of the body in statutory bodies.

At the State level, the initiative to set up JCCs rests with the office of the State Secretary.

The meetings, Jamaluddin said, should be held at least four times every year.

The meetings must be chaired by the chairman. If he is unavailable, the most senior officer will take charge.

Under no circumstances will the workers' representative be allowed to chair such meetings.

"The department head is responsible to ensure the minutes of the meetings are submitted to the PSD to allow it to monitor the situation.

"If the minutes are not submitted in three months, a reminder will be sent out," he said.

Jamaluddin said the PSD would also conduct regular checks at departments to ensure the meetings were conducted.

Those invited to attend such meetings from outstation offices will be entitled to travel and related allowances, as provided for those attending

official functions.

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