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Cuepacs-Salary

LIGHT AT THE END OF THE TUNNEL FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, May 30 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs, which had its fourth and final meeting with the Public Service Department (PSD) today on the New Remuneration Scheme (NRS), is confident that the salary system will be finely tuned by the government to suit the one million civil servants in the country.

"The feedback we have received from the PSD is very positive and now it is up to the government to make its decision on the salary scheme. As far as we are concerned our mission is completed, now it's for the government to settle the problem," Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said.

He said the 90-minute meeting with PSD officers at Putrajaya was the last representation made by the civil sector umbrella union body over the NRS.

"We are confident that the government would be sympathetic towards civil sector workers...they have not given a deadline on when changes, if any, would take place," he told reporters at the Cuepacs headquarters, here.

He said that while the umbrella union was fighting for the welfare of the nearly one million public servants in the country, it should also take into consideration the government's concern like the financial strain of a new salary scale, if any were to be introduced.

The NRS was introduced in 1992 but after a few years showed several weaknesses including unfair salary increment and biased promotions.

Cuepacs had been urging the government to fine-tune or revamp the scheme, saying that the scheme had been unfair to civil servants since it was the heads of department who decided on promotions or a salary increment.

Late last year Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad directed the PSD to look into the grouses of Cuepacs, which led to the meetings between the two parties.

Dr Mahathir, who is also the Finance Minister, had also said that if the scheme were to be scrapped and replaced with a new salary and promotion scheme for civil servants, it would cost the country's taxpayers RM1 billion.

"We were told today that our proposals have been given due consideration. Now the PSD will submit a comprehensive proposal to the prime minister and only then will we know if the scheme will be continued to revamped," Siva Subramaniam said.

He said the NRS has weaknesses in the implementation of the matrix system, evaluation of performance and the vertical and horizontal salary scale.

He said Cuepacs, as a responsible umbrella union, would not pressure the government on the matter as it did not want to be seen as a pressure group.

"With the meeting today, we hope the government and the prime minister will come to the assistance of civil servants in sorting out this matter," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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