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CIVIL SERVANTS' BONUS IN TWO PAYMENTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 24 (Bernama) -- The bonus for civil servants will be paid in two payments, the Finance Ministry said in a statement today.

The statement said the first payment would be made together with the October salary to help government employees make preparation for the Hari Raya.

The second payment will be included in the December salary to ease the burden of parents in meeting expenses for the 2003 school term.

The bonus payment is estimated to total RM1,074 million.

When tabling the 2003 Budget last Friday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, who is also the Finance Minister, announced a one-month bonus or minimum of RM1,200 for civil servants.

Cuepcas president Datuk N.Siva Subramaniam welcomed the decision to pay the bonus in two payments, saying it will help civil servants cope with additional expenses, especially for the new school term.

"We wish to thank the government," he told Bernama. "Civil servants should be grateful and they should also promise to work harder to help the government implement its policies."

On bonus payment for pensioners, Siva said Cuepacacs would discuss the matter with the Malaysian Government Pensioners Association.

-- BERNAMA

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