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Pensioners welcome special RM200 payment

KUALA LUMPUR, Thurs. - The special RM200 payment for Government pensioners announced yesterday by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad could not have come at a more appropriate time.

Malaysian Government Pensioners' Association secretary-general Datuk Seri Mohamed Khalil Hussein said today that members were very happy with the extra cash to celebrate Hari Raya, Christmas, Chinese New Year and even Deepavali.

"We are very grateful to the Government and appreciate what we have been given.

"We hope that special payments like this could be made simultaneously with bonus payments to civil servants and perhaps the amount increased in future," he said.

Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam, in welcoming the gesture, said: "It shows that the Government is always considerate towards pensioners.

"It is something we should appreciate and understand that this helps, especially during the festive season, to bring cheer to over 450,000 pensioners."

He said the Government's move was unique, adding that although the amount was small, it was a welcome gesture.

Siva said for pensioners receiving less than RM200 a month, the amount did make a difference.

Details of the payment will be conveyed to government pensioners' associations.

Dr Mahathir had said the payment was a gift and was not related to any pension revision under the relevant law or extra or special payment given to serving civil servants.