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RM15 increment `not reasonable`

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues. - Cuepacs today expressed dissatisfaction with the RM15 salary increment for the support group under the new Malaysian Remuneration System.

It wants the Government to offer a more "reasonable" amount.

Cuepacs president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said the union was also not happy with the three-tier salary increment for the support group.

"We want the group to also have two tiers like the middle management group," he said, after a 2 1/2 hour Cuepacs Congress Council Special meeting here today.

One hundred and thirty delegates representing the various unions, affiliated to Cuepacs, attended the meeting. The SSM, which replaces the New Remuneration System was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad on July 29.

Cuepacs also wants the Government to simplify examinations for the purpose of promotion for the support group as there is no fixed module for them to follow.

"We will also be requesting for a review of all the allowances for Government servants namely the hotel eligibility, housing allowance, public service allowance and others."

Siva Subramaniam said the gap in the salary increment between the support group, which make up about 600,000 of the Cuepacs membership, and the other two groups, namely the management and professional and the higher management group, was too wide.

The management and professional and the higher management group will receive RM65 and RM110 increment respectively under the SSM.

However, Sivasubramaniam said, Cuepacs members generally accepted the SSM.

He said a letter would be sent to Dr Mahathir tomorrow requesting for a meeting.

"Members in the support group receive low salaries and with the increase in prices of services and fees, the RM15 increment will not be much help."

He said Cuepacs would do its own calculation and would submit its findings to the Government to consider.

Siva Subramaniam said opportunities for the support group to advance in their career should also be provided.

"We don't want an office boy to retire as an office boy. There must be avenues and opportunities for him to advance in his career."

He said the support group formed the backbone of the Government service and have been supportive of the Government all the while.

Apart from the increment civil servants will receive a special one-off payment on Nov 1 when SSM takes effect.

The Support Group will get RM220; Management and Professional RM350; and Higher Management Group RM650.

The system, to cost the Government an additional RM302 million this year, was expected to end years of dissatisfaction among government employees who complained that assessment under the New Remuneration System (SSB) was open to abuse.

The SSM is expected to provide more transparent annual appraisals with emphasis on merit which meant heads of departments will have no absolute right on the matter anymore.