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Cuepacs-salary

CUEPACS WANTS 13-MONTH PAY A YEAR FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Cuepacs, the public sector umbrella union, would submit a memorandum to the government next week, asking for a 13-month pay a year for civil servants.

Its president, Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said the move, if implemented, could help rejuvenate the country's economy especially the retail industry.

"We want the government to pay the extra month and this should be divided into two payments, a half month before major festive occasions and another half month before school reopens," he said at a media conference after the Cuepacs Council meeting here today.

He said the extra month should not be considered as bonus, the payment of which would be at the discretion of the government and made when the nation's economy was healthy.

Today's meeting, attended by some 200 affiliated members, supported wholeheartedly the 13-month pay proposal, he said.

On another matter, the one-million strong Cuepacs also welcomed Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi's call yesterday for a student exchange programme between national type and vernacular schools.

According to Abdullah, such programme could foster closer ties among the students of various races in the country.

"This will no doubt help foster unity among students...the older generation does not have problems of interacting with other races. The problem prevails among the young," Siva said.

He suggested that students in national type schools be given a month to study in vernacular schools and vice versa as this would help the students to learn the culture of other races in the country.

"This should also include students from Sabah and Sarawak. This is one of the ways to create a genuine Malaysian society," he said.

On the 2-sen fuel prices hike announced by the government yesterday, he said the authorities must ensure that it would not lead to increase in the prices of other goods.

"Sometimes when fuel prices go up, the price of a cup of coffee or even roti canai goes up...we accept the increase but the authorities must ensure that prices of other goods do not follow upwards," he said.

Today's council meeting also passed a resolution condemning the impending U.S. attack on Iraq. It would submit a protest note to the American embassy here soon.

Siva said an international panel of doctors had estimated that the war in Iraq would result in nearly 260,000 people losing their lives while 200,000 more would die due to deteriorating health.

"We want the United States to know that we are serious on this and that Malaysia's civil servants are behind the country's leaders in wanting peace," he said, while thanking civil servants for turning up at last Saturday's Malaysians for Peace Rally, which was also attended by the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

Over 100,000 Malaysians, including 15,000 civil servants, attended the rally calling for a peaceful solution to the Iraq crisis at the National Stadium in Bukit Jalil here.

-- BERNAMA

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