

MTUC, CUEPACS GET RM1M EACH

This is to boost their management system, says PM

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THE Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) and the Congress of Unions of Employees in Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) will each receive a RM1 million allocation to boost their management system.

At the Labour Day celebration at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre here yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim described the allocation as a start to assist both organisations.

"This is to honour and recognise both unions and I want to ensure that the management of these organisations is organised and efficient."

Anwar said he had no problems with some of the demands by MTUC and Cuepacs.

Bername reported that Cuepacs had proposed that the ser-

vice period of contract civil servants for permanent employment be shortened from 15 to 10 years.

Its president, Datuk Adnan Mat, said this was one of the proposals that would be submitted to Anwar in the near future.

If this proposal was accepted, about 30,000 civil servants under contract status in ministries would be absorbed into permanent positions, he said.

"Previously, a policy was approved whereby contract staff could be given permanent positions on a one-time basis after serving for 15 years or more.

"However, it is unfortunate that today there are some employees who serve more than 10 years and their contracts are not renewed, although they can serve another five years to get permanent appointments."

The Cuepacs Labour Day celebration was officiated by Public Service Department director-general Datuk Dr Zulkapli Mohamed.

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Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim at the Labour Day celebration in Putrajaya yesterday. With him are Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Ahmad Zahid Hamidi and Human Resources Minister V. Sivakumar. PIC BY MOHD FADLI HAMZAH

Adnan said during the administration of the previous government, there were contract employees who had served for more than 10 years being proposed for permanent positions on a one-off basis, but it was not implemented.

He said Cuepacs would also submit a proposal to abolish the cost-of-living allowance deduction for civil servants living in

government quarters

"Cuepacs hopes that the cost-of-living allowance will not be deducted because it can be used to help in their expenses."

He said the housing allowance now and half of the cost-of-living allowance had been deducted.

He said he hoped the government would consider accommodation sharing across ministries

to meet demand, especially in big cities.

"In Putrajaya, more than 23,000 civil servants are waiting to get government quarters.

"Similar situations are happening in big cities such as Kuala Lumpur.

"So it is appropriate to open up quarters built by a ministry to other civil servants, as there are vacancies in some units."