

**Monitor Price Of Essential Goods Following Pay Rise For Civil Servants - Cuepacs  
Bernama  
October 7, 2011**

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 7 (Bernama) -- The government must monitor the price of day-to-day basic necessities following the salary increment and bonus payment for civil servants announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak when tabling the 2012 Budget today.

Cuepacs Secretary-general Lok Yim Pheng said if the government does not monitor price of essential goods, there could be a sudden increase due to the announcement and thus defeat the government's efforts to reduce the burden of the people due to rise in living cost.

"With the salary increase, I sincerely hope the government will emphasize on price control initiatives to curb any increase in prices of essential goods.

"If the salary of civil servants is increased and the prices of goods go up, the government's desire to help the people will not materialise,"

The concern was raised by Lok after Najib who is also Finance Minister announced that civil servants would enjoy a pay rise from between RM80 to RM320 based on their grade.

Lok however, welcomed the RM120 million allocation to assist civil servants further their studies on a part time basis as the government would also offer study fees assistance to civil servants who pursued higher learning on a part-time basis starting 2012.

"This will give civil servants a chance to enhance their knowledge and qualification to improve their performances at work," said Lok.

The government, together with public Higher Learning Institutions (IPTA) will offer 5,000 opportunities to continue their studies for Masters and 500 places for Phd level.

Lok who is also the Secretary General of the National Union of Teaching Profession (NUTP) urged the government to consider abolishing the Parents Teachers Association (PIBG) fees for the low income group.

"I suggest the government abolish the PIBG fees for parents earning less than RM3,000 a month because they are still in the low income group," she said.

She also expressed delight with the announcement by Najib to introduce a new scheme with a time-based promotion, whereby a teacher would achieve grade 44 on the eighth year and grade 48 on the 16th year of service and no longer had to wait 20 years to be promoted.

For non-graduate teachers under the current time-based system, it will take 10 years to be promoted from grade 29 to 32 while under the SBPA, it will only take eight years.

"Currently, promotions from grade 32 to 34 are based on vacancies. However under the SBPA, a time-based eight years promotion will be applied," he said.

Under the SBPA, an Exit Policy would be formulated for under-performing civil servants and

for those who opt to leave the service.

Meanwhile, Yayasan Guru Malaysia Berhad (YGMB) chairman Tan Sri Alimuddin Mohd Dom said the time has come for teachers to be promoted based on a time based process because teachers make up a huge workforce of about 400,000.

"Since there is a large number of teachers, the process of promotion will be limited if based on the previous procedure because promotion was based on availability of a vacancy," he told Bernama today.

In Kuching, Sarawak Teachers Union president William Ghani Bina in welcoming the 2012 Budget as people centric said the abolishment of additional fees for primary and secondary students would lift the burden off parents, especially low income earners and those in rural and remote areas.

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