

**Cuepacs lays groundwork for fight against SBPA**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 — Cuepacs is diving headlong into the review of a new civil service pay scheme, and is forming an action committee to draw up a working paper on how best to salvage the controversial wage plan.

According to Bernama Online, the 15-man committee on the Public Service New Remuneration Scheme (SBPA) will be headed by Cuepacs deputy president Azih Muda and will focus on five key demands.

These include a review of the salary adjustment for officers in Grade 54 and under; the preservation of seniority based on the current Malaysian Remuneration Scheme (SSM); increments for officers already at their existing pay ceilings; and a re-examination of the proposed pay structure changes.

Repeated objections to the new pay scheme has forced Putrajaya to institute a review even before the new structures could be implemented, with the taskforce due to complete its study by April 16.

The taskforce will be headed by former director-general of the Public Service Department Tan Sri Ismail Adam, and will include representation from the Public Service Department, Attorney-General's Chambers, the Finance Ministry and Cuepacs.

Last week, Cuepacs sought an additional three spots on the taskforce, with union president Datuk Omar Osman threatening to abandon his place on the panel if this was not granted.

After Ismail said yesterday that he was not authorised to approve the demand, Cuepacs now plans to bring the demand to the attention of Chief Secretary Tan Sri Sidek Hassan.

The Malaysian Insider previously reported of rumblings within the 1.4 million-strong civil service — a key Barisan Nasional vote bank — over the glaring differences in pay packages between the upper and lower tiers of the force.

The SBPA had already run into previous objections from Cuepacs, who complained it was not consulted adequately before the scheme was rolled out.

Pakatan Rakyat lawmakers also accused Putrajaya of “bulldozing” the scheme through, and criticised it for being vague and failing to confer with stakeholders adequately.

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