

Cuepacs: Bosses should give WFH opportunities

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PETALING JAYA: Heads of department in the civil service have been urged to be more lenient with employees who have school-going children by giving them more opportunities to work from home (WFH) as schools remain closed during the conditional movement control order (MCO) period.

Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) president Adnan Mat said the organisation has received reports about heads of department

Battling Covid-19



disregarding a circular encouraging working remotely in an effort to guard against Covid-19.

"The conditional MCO has not stopped civil servants from carrying out their duties professionally but they do run into problems when their children are left at

home unsupervised when schools are closed," he said.

Adnan was asked to comment on complaints from parents working in the civil service of not being allowed to work from home despite an option for them to do so on a rotational or full-time basis.

He noted that the refusal of some heads of department to exercise the option has had parents worrying about proper childcare at home while they are at work.

"Imagine if both the parents working in the civil service are not allowed to WFH.

"If they are, at least one of them

could keep an eye on the children and make sure that they also stay at home while the conditional MCO is enforced," he said.

Adnan said while heads of department with federal agencies have no problem allowing their staff to WFH, it is mostly those attached with local authorities or statutory bodies that do not widely exercise it as they may deem it optional.

"Some of them even disregard it because they have their own rules. Regardless, this rule makes it convenient to carry out one's duties at this time and it needs to be hon-

oured," Adnan said.

In a statement on Oct 12, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohammad Zuki Ali ordered heads of department to comply with an earlier circular allowing staff members to WFH, either on a rotational or full-time basis.

They were also ordered to permit flexible hours during the conditional MCO period.

Mohammad Zuki advised heads of department to use their discretion on the options while ensuring that standard operating procedure on health and safety matters was practised.