

Cuepacs Sarawak wants allowances raised for civil servants



By Goh Pei Pei - September 24, 2021 @ 3:35pm



Omar Bahrein Unin, who is Sarawak Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) chairman, said the additional amount should be given to civil servants serving in the two states to address the rising cost living - NSTP/NORSYAZWANI NASRI

KUCHING: The federal government has been urged to consider giving an additional RM50 a month in the Cost of Living Allowance (Cola) for civil servants in Sarawak and Sabah in the 2022 Budget.

Omar Bahrein Unin, who is Sarawak Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs) chairman, said the additional amount should be given to civil servants serving in the two states to address the rising cost of living.

He said civil servants in the two states receive the regional allowance (Elaun Wilayah) and are ineligible for Cola.

"They do not enjoy the additional income of RM50 per month which has been enjoyed by civil servants in the peninsula since January last year," he said in a statement today.

Sarawak Cuepacs, he said, wants the government to review the payment rate of the regional allowance for federal civil servants serving in Sarawak and Sabah, as it had not been reviewed since it came into effect in 1988.

"We also ask the government to provide an allocation in the 2022 Budget for a new remuneration system for civil servants as the current remuneration system has been used since 2002.

"The wages should be in accordance with the cost of living, eligibility for employment and the country's poverty line income, which had been revised to RM2,208 per month."

He said the government should also consider giving an annual bonus for civil servants, instead of the 'financial assistance' or 'token of appreciation' that has been announced for the past 10 years.

Omar Bahrein said Sarawak Cuepacs understands the constraints on the part of the government especially involving finances during the Covid-19 pandemic.

However, many civil servants were affected as most of them are from the B40 and M40 groups, and was necessary to help them to survive in the pandemic.