

Federation against private sector Cola

KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — The Malaysian Employers Federation today poured cold water over a call for a cost of living allowance (Cola) for the private sector.

Its executive director Shamsuddin Barden said the allowance was not justified by the present rate of inflation.

He said the prevailing consumer price index of 3.5 per cent was not indicative of a "fantastically high cost of living" environment.

"We have to consider the fact that an employee's higher living cost can be adjusted accordingly with a better pay package.

"For, unlike civil servants

who get a salary review once in five to ten years, private sector workers get annual increments and other perks," he said.

He was commenting on yesterday's call by the Malaysian Trades Union Congress that the Government encourage the private sector to give their workers a cost of living allowance of RM100 to RM150 a month.

MTUC president Syed Shahir Syed Mohamud had said that this would not only help spur the economy but also help those who were struggling with two jobs to make ends meet, especially in view of the petrol price increase.