

# Teachers will get full wages

## Cuepacs: Leave will not be deducted, too

**PETALING JAYA:** Teachers and other civil servants who are under home quarantine due to the influenza A (H1N1) outbreak will not have their annual leave or wages deducted.

"They will get full wages and their annual leave won't be deducted because they were directed to stay home," said Cuepacs president Omar Osman.

It was the usual practice under these sort of circumstances to grant unrecorded leave, he said.

"If the school is closed for a week, it is not right to deduct one week's wages. It is not like the teachers did not want to work. They were just abiding by a government directive," he told *The Star*.

Although there had been no complaints from any civil servant to date, Osman urged them to report to Cuepacs if they found that their pay or annual leave had been deducted due to the home quarantine.

Human Resources Ministry secretary-general Datuk R. Segarajah said people who have a doctor's certification to be home quarantined will get paid leave.

Malaysian Employers Federation executive director Shamsuddin Bardan said employees should be given full pay with home leave if they were quarantined upon returning home from an affected country on company business.

"To be fair to both sides, you must take the situation into context. It was the company's requirement that the worker travel to the affected country for work," he said.

»It is not like the teachers did not want to work«

OMAR OSMAN

However, if the employee was quarantined or home isolated after returning from a leisure trip, the company could allow the worker to take leave without pay for that duration.

"But there must be an option for the worker to take annual leave," he said.

Shamsuddin said the same applied to workers who were home quarantined by the authorities after coming into close contact with a person confirmed with the virus.

"If the quarantine arises from a work matter, then the company should bear the cost and let the worker take leave with full pay without having to apply for annual leave. Otherwise, it would not be fair," he said.

In Putrajaya, Health director-general Tan Sri Dr Ismail Merican said the Government would not issue any guidelines or advice for private sector companies.

"This is an issue that needs to be discussed and settled between the employers and employees," he said.