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TEACHERS

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 19 (BERNAMA) — THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECIDED TO OFFER TWO INCREMENTS TO THE 12,000 TEACHERS IN CATEGORIES B1 AND B2 BACKDATED TO JANUARY 1, 1974.

THIS MEANS THAT EACH OF THOSE IN B1 WILL GET \$1,040 IN ARREARS AND EACH OF THE B2 TEACHERS WILL GET \$750.

ANNOUNCING THIS AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HERE TODAY, THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID THE OFFER WOULD COST THE GOVERNMENT \$11.94 MILLION IN ARREARS AND \$5.97 MILLION ANNUALLY.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE SCALE HOWEVER REMAINED THE SAME AT \$205 X 20 — \$580 FOR B1 TEACHERS AND \$175 X 15 — \$370 FOR B2 TEACHERS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD CONSIDERED ALL ASPECTS BEFORE GRANTING THE OFFER.

HE DESCRIBED THE OFFER AS VERY GENEROUS.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE UNION WAS AT LIBERTY TO ACCEPT OR REJECT THE OFFER.

HE HOPED HOWEVER, IN THE INTEREST OF THEIR MEMBERS AND THE COUNTRY THE UNION WOULD ACCEPT THE OFFER. — BERNAMA MORE 1116/HS

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TEACHERS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE ISSUE OF THE CATEGORY B TEACHERS AROSE THREE YEARS AGO WITH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AZIZ REPORT WHICH WIDENED THE SALARY GAP BETWEEN THOSE WITH LCE QUALIFICATIONS AND SCHOOL CERTIFICATE HOLDERS.

THOSE WITH LCE WERE PLACED IN CATEGORY B1 AND B2 WHILE THOSE WITH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE IN CATEGORY C1 AND C2.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT REALISED THE ANOMALY AND THE TEACHERS SERVICES COMMISSION RECOMMENDED A SPECIAL PROMOTION GRADE FOR THE CATEGORY B TEACHERS.

UNDER THE COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION, THOSE WHO REACHED THE SALARY OF \$480 ON THE B SCALE WOULD BE PROMOTED TO THE SPECIAL GRADE AT \$580 — 720.

SINCE THIS OFFER ONLY BENEFITED 4,000 OF THE 12,000 TEACHERS AFFECTED, THE UNIONS APPEALED TO THE GOVERNMENT TO REDUCE THE SALARY AT WHICH THEY WOULD SWITCH TO THE NEW GRADE FROM \$480 TO \$400 CLAIMING THAT IT WOULD BENEFIT 8,000 TEACHERS.

HOWEVER, THIS WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND DR. MAHATHIR THEN PROPOSED THAT A FORMULA BE DEVISED WHEREBY ALL THE TEACHERS WOULD BENEFIT.

HE SAID THAT BASED ON THIS PROPOSAL THE CABINET DECIDED YESTERDAY TO AWARD THE TWO INCREMENTS TO ALL THE TEACHERS. — BERNAMA MORE 1145/YF

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TEACHERS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE, ENCIK S. RADHAKRISHNAN— REPRESENTING THE B CATEGORY TEACHERS— SAID THE OFFER WAS +SHORT OF OUR EXPECTATION.+

HE ADDED THAT IN HIS VIEW THREE INCREMENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN A FAIR OFFER.

HOWEVER, HE COULD NOT SAY WHETHER THE 12 UNIONS IN THE ACTION COMMITTEE WOULD ACCEPT OR REJECT THE OFFER.

HE SAID THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD MEET AT AN EMERGENCY SESSION TONIGHT TO DISCUSS THE OFFER.

HE ADDED A FINAL DECISION ON THE OFFER WOULD BE TAKEN ON SATURDAY WHEN ALL THE TEACHERS INVOLVED WOULD MEET AT THE DEWAN PANDU PUTRI IN JALAN BUNGSAR.

DR. MAHATHIR IS EXPECTED TO BE PRESENT AT THE MEETING TO EXPLAIN THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER.

ENCIK RADHAKRISHNAN SAID THE COMMITTEE WAS SENDING TELEGRAMS TO ALL AFFILIATED UNION MEMBERS ABOUT THE MEETING.

HE HOPED ALL CATEGORY B TEACHERS WOULD ATTEND THE MEETING.
— BERNAMA 1445/YF

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TEACHER 4 KL (REOPEN ITEM 16)

MEANWHILE, A MASS RALLY OF CATEGORY B TEACHERS WILL BE HELD AT THE GIRL GUIDES HALL HERE ON SATURDAY TO DECIDE ON THE GOVERNMENT'S OFFER.

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL ACTION COMMITTEE FOR 12 TEACHERS UNIONS, ENCIK S. RADHAKRISHNAN, SAID THE RALLY WAS TO EXPLAIN THE LATEST DEVELOPMENT AS WELL AS TO TAKE A DECISION.

+THE COMMITTEE FELT THAT THE OFFER WAS BELOW THE MINIMUM DEMAND AND BELOW ITS EXPECTATION. IT IS IN NO POSITION TO TAKE A STAND UNTIL THE RALLY IS HELD,+ HE SAID.

HE SAID THE FORMULA PROPOSED BY THE GOVERNMENT WAS ACCEPTABLE TO THE TEACHERS. +THE ONLY DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IS IN THE QUANTUM.+ -- BERNAMA MORE 1917/1B

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TEACHER-5 KL (RE-OPEN ITEM)

HE ADDED THAT THE RECENT RALLY HELD HERE HAD AUTHORISED THE 12 UNIONS TO TAKE DRASTIC MEASURES INCLUDING INDUSTRIAL ACTION IF THE DEMANDS WERE NOT SETTLED BY JUNE 13.

THE COMMITTEE APPRECIATED THE EFFORTS OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED IN HELPING TO FIND A SPEEDY SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM.

THE MATTER WAS REFERRED TO HIM IN THE MIDDLE OF LAST MONTH AND WITHIN ONE MONTH, A DECISION HAD BEEN MADE, HE SAID. — BERNAMA 1920/1B