

MAHATHIR - ARREARS

77 (P)  
KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 19 (BERNAMA) — THE METHOD OF PAYMENT OF ARREARS UNDER THE CABINET COMMITTEE SALARIES REPORT WILL BE ANNOUNCED NEXT MONTH, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMED SAID TODAY.

HE SAID IT WOULD COST THE GOVERNMENT \$680 MILLION TO IMPLEMENT THE REPORT.

THIS FIGURE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE DOUBLE PAYMENT OF VARIOUS ALLOWANCES DURING THE PERIOD OF 18 MONTHS, HE ADDED.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY OF AN ATLAS AT THE OPERATIONS ROOM OF THE EDUCATION MINISTRY HERE, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE FIGURE HOWEVER DID NOT INCLUDE OTHER ADJUSTMENTS, INCLUDING PENSIONS AND INCREMENT OF SALARIES.

HE SAID THAT AN INDEPENDENT BODY, AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE CABINET REPORT, WOULD BE SET UP AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO LOOK INTO ALL ANOMALIES ARISING FROM THE REPORT.

HOWEVER, HE CLARIFIED THAT THE BODY WOULD BE SET UP WITH DISTINCT POWERS AND DISTINCT TERMS OF REFERENCE WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF CONDITIONS IN THE COUNTRY. — BERNAMA MORE 1657/YF

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HE POINTED OUT THAT THE SETTING UP OF THE BODY REQUIRED CAREFUL STUDY WITH REGARD TO ITS STRUCTURE AND FUNCTIONS.

+NOBODY IS EVER SATISFIED WITH ANY SALARIES REPORT AND EFFORTS ARE STILL BEING MADE TO RECTIFY THE ANOMALIES ARISING FROM THE VARIOUS REPORTS,+ HE SAID.

COMMENTING ON REPORTS THAT THE WORKERS IN THE INCOME TAX DEPARTMENT WERE PLANNING TO GO ON STRIKE IN VIEW OF THE ANOMALIES, DR. MAHATHIR SAID, +AS THE LAW STANDS, THEY CAN GO ON STRIKE.+

+BUT THE GOVERNMENT POSSESSES CERTAIN POWERS IN THIS MATTER. SO WE WILL HAVE TO JUST WAIT AND SEE,+ HE ADDED.

DR. MAHATHIR SAID MANY OTHER GROUPS OF WORKERS HAD SENT IN COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE ANOMALIES IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REPORT.

HE SAID THE MATTER HAD TO BE STUDIED AS A WHOLE AS THE GOVERNMENT HAD TO +DO WHAT WE THINK IS GOOD FOR ALL THE PEOPLE.+ — BERNAMA MORE 1700/YF

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DR. MAHATHIR STRESSED THAT IT WAS NOT UMNO OR THE BARISAN NASIONAL WHICH WAS PAYING THE MONEY, BUT THE PEOPLE THEMSELVES WHO HAD TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF INCREASED SALARIES FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

ON THE ANOMALIES, HE SAID THAT IF THERE +IS A CASE FOR ONE GROUP, THERE IS A CASE FOR EVERYONE ELSE.+

EARLIER, AT THE PRESENTATION CEREMONY, DR. MAHATHIR SAID THE NATIONAL ATLAS PRODUCED BY THE DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA WOULD BE USEFUL TO SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES, EMBASSIES AND INFORMATION OFFICES.

HE SAID SUCH EFFORTS BY THE DEWAN SHOWED THAT IT WAS SUCCESSFUL IN PRODUCING WORKS OF THE HIGHEST PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS.

HE HOPED THAT IT WOULD WORK MORE ACTIVELY TO INCREASE ITS ROLE IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF DEWAN BAHASA DAN PUSTAKA HAJI HASSAN BIN AHMAD SAID THE AIM OF PRODUCING THE ATLAS WAS TO MAKE MALAYSIA MORE WELL-KNOWN TO OTHER COUNTRIES.

HE SAID THE ATLAS DEPICTED THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT, INCLUDING HISTORY, POLITICS, ECONOMY, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT, AGRICULTURE AND INDUSTRY.

EACH ATLAS, COSTING \$100, CONTAINS 196 MAPS AND 170 PAGES OF SYNOPSIS ON THE MAPS. — BERNAMA 1726/YF