

MAHATHIR  
BM

77 (P)  
PETALING JAYA, OCT. 1 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT HAS SELECTED A +SUITABLE+ CHAIRMAN TO HEAD THE SALARIES TRIBUNAL TO RESOLVE ANOMALIES ARISING FROM THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE SALARY REPORT.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR. (MAHATHIR MOHAMAD) SAID THE NAME OF THE CHAIRMAN WOULD BE ANNOUNCED AFTER THE CONSENT OF THE YANG DIPERTUAN AGUNG HAD BEEN OBTAINED.

OPENING THE 20TH BIENNIAL DELEGATES CONFERENCE OF THE INDUSTRIAL AND MANUAL GROUP COUNCIL HERE TODAY, HE HOPED THAT THE WORKERS WOULD BE PATIENT BECAUSE THE GOVERNMENT ALSO WANTED TO SETTLE THE ANOMALIES PROBLEM AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR, WHO APOLOGISED ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT FOR THE DELAY IN SETTING UP THE TRIBUNAL, SAID THIS WAS DUE TO APPEALS BY WORKERS WHO WANTED THE CHAIRMAN TO BE SELECTED FROM A PERSON WITH CERTAIN SPECIFIC QUALITIES.

HE ALSO SAID THAT OVERTIME PAYMENT AMOUNTING TO MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF A PERSON'S SALARY COULD BE PAID IN SPECIFIC CASES WHERE OVERTIME WORK COULD NOT BE AVOIDED. THIS MUST APPROVED BY OFFICERS. -- BERNAMA MORE 1544/ZCM

EE  
ND65: (F)  
MAHATHIR 2 PETALING JAYA

HOWEVER, THE GOVERNMENT WAS STILL STUDYING THE PROBLEM OF ARREARS FOR OVERTIME WORK BECAUSE THIS INVOLVED SEVERAL SERVICE PRINCIPLES.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ALSO SAID THE GOVERNMENT HAD NOT REJECTED A PROPOSAL CALLING FOR THE REVIVAL OF THE NATIONAL WHITELY COUNCIL (IMG) BUT TO AVOID MAKING AN UNWISE DECISION IT HAD TO TAKE TIME TO CONSIDER IT.

THE PROPOSAL WAS MADE BY A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE IMG UNION TO DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR WHEN THEY MET AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CABINET COMMITTEE PAY SCHEME.

ON THE POWERS OF TRADE UNIONS, HE SAID THERE WAS STILL NO PROOF OF MISUSE OF THESE POWERS OR IRRESPONSIBLE ACTS AMONG WORKERS UNIONS IN THE COUNTRY.

+WE ARE THANKFUL THAT THE POWERS VESTED IN THE UNIONS HAD NOT BEEN USED FOR BAD INTENTIONS,+ HE ADDED. -- BERNAMA MORE 1547/ZCM

ND66: (F)  
MAHATHIR 3 PETALING JAYA

HE SAID THAT THERE WERE OF COURSE THREATS BY TRADE UNIONS TO INCONVENIENCE THE PUBLIC IF CLAIMS WERE NOT ENTERTAINED AND ATTEMPTS TO MAKE WORKERS UNIONS INTO POLITICAL TOOLS BUT SO FAR THERE HAD BEEN NO PROOF OF MISUSE OF POWERS.

HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT WOULD ALSO NOT USE ITS POWERS EXCESSIVELY UNLESS PERMITTED BY THE PEOPLE.

SO FAR, IT APPEARED THAT THE PEOPLE WERE WILLING TO FACE VARIOUS DIFFICULTIES AS A RESULT OF IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS BY SELF-MOTIVATED PERSONS BECAUSE THE PEOPLE WANTED TO MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM TO ACT.

AS SUCH THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT TAKE ANY ACTION TO PREVENT THE ACTIVITIES, HE ADDED.

HOWEVER, HE HOPED THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT BE MISINTERPRETED AS A WEAKNESS BY THOSE INTENDING TO CREATE TROUBLE AND THREATEN THE ECONOMY AND STABILITY OF THE COUNTRY.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL, HAJI ABDUL RAHMAN TAHIR, HOPED THAT ANOMALIES IN THE CABINET COMMITTEE REPORT WOULD BE RESOLVED SOON.

HE ALSO URGED THAT THE NAMES OF CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE TRIBUNAL WOULD BE ANNOUNCED SOON. -- BERNAMA 1553/ZCM