

MAHATHIR-MTSU

KUALA LUMPUR, NOV. 29 (BERNAMA) - DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY THAT IT WILL NOT BE FAIR FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE SALARIES OF ITS WORKERS WITHOUT THINKING OF THE CONSEQUENCES THAT WILL BEFALL THOSE WITHOUT A FIXED INCOME.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT IF THE WAGES OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES WERE RAISED ARBITRARILY THE RESULT WOULD ADVERSELY AFFECT THE LOW-INCOME EARNERS, PARTICULARLY THE FISHERMEN AND FARMERS.

HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO REJECT ALL CLAIMS FOR SALARY INCREASES BUT, IT FELT THAT THE RISE IN THE COST OF LIVING COULD NOT BE OVERCOME WITH SALARY HIRES.

SALARY INCREASES WOULD BECOME MEANINGLESS IF THE PURCHASING POWER OF THE MONEY COULD NOT REMAIN AT STABLE LEVELS, HE SAID WHEN OPENING THE MALAYSIAN TECHNICAL SERVICES UNION (MTSU) DELEGATES CONFERENCE HERE. — BERNAMA MMORE 2323/1B

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DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR SAID THAT THE GOVERNMENT HAD REDUCED VARIOUS TAXES FOR THE PEOPLE'S BENEFIT.

HE WAS AWARE THAT TRADE UNIONS WERE NOT SATISFIED WITH THE SALARY SCALES RECOMMENDED BY THE CABINET COMMITTEE AND SAID HE WAS PREPARED TO MEET THEM FOR DISCUSSIONS.

HE ADVISED GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO WORK NOT ONLY FOR MATERIAL GAIN BUT ALSO FOR THE INTEREST OF THE COUNTRY. — BERNAMA 2359/1B