

KUALA LUMPUR, MAY 22 (BERNAMA) — THE CABINET HAS APPROVED THE UPWARD SALARY REVISION FOR ALL CIVIL SERVANTS INCLUDING THE POLICE, ARMED FORCES AND JUDGES, WHICH WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED +SOONER THAN EXPECTED+, DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID HERE TODAY.

HE SAID THAT IN ADDITION A SPECIAL ALLOWANCE CALLED THE +CIVIL SERVICE ALLOWANCE+ WOULD BE PAID TO ALL EMPLOYEES AND PENSIONERS, WHO WERE PAID OUT FROM PUBLIC FUNDS.

HE, HOWEVER, DECLINED TO DISCLOSE THE QUANTUM OF THE SALARY INCREASE, ADDING THAT IT WOULD COST A +LARGE AMOUNT+, BUT THIS WOULD BE WITHIN THE CAPABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENT, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE GOVERNMENT'S COMMITMENT TO BEEF UP THE ARMED FORCES AND ITS RECURRENT EXPENDITURE.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, WHO WAS SPEAKING TO NEWSMEN FOLLOWING HIS MEETING WITH A TRADE DELEGATION FROM SAUDI ARABIA, ALSO EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT THE +PRIVATE SECTOR WOULD USE THE NEW GOVERNMENT SALARY SCHEME AS A GUIDELINE WHEREVER POSSIBLE+ TO INCREASE THE SALARIES OF THEIR EMPLOYEES. —BERNAMA MORE 2129/BY MAHATHIR — SALARY 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID ALL THE MENTERIS' BESAR AND CHIEF MINISTERS HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON THE SALARY REVISION.

DESCRIBING THE REVISION AS A +NORMAL, PERIODIC EXERCISE+, HE SAID THE GOVERNMENT, IN WORKING OUT THE NEW SCHEME, HAD TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION, THE SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY SUCH AS INFLATION AND THE PEOPLE NOT IN THE CIVIL SERVICE.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD TO CONSIDER THE PROBLEMS ARISING FROM INJECTING TOO MUCH MONEY IN THE MARKET, AND FOR THIS REASON, IT HAD DISPENSED WITH THE PRACTICE OF PAYING OUT ARREARS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW WORKING OUT THE SALARY INCREASE FOR CERTAIN AREAS SUCH AS CONTRACT WORKERS AND OTHERS WHO HAD NO SALARY INCREASE FOR THE PAST FEW YEARS. — BERNAMA MORE 1818/YF

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THE SALARY REVISION, THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER ADDED, ALSO ALLOWED THOSE WHO HAD OPTED OUT OF THE PREVIOUS SALARY REVISIONS, TO OPT IN.

EXPLAINING THE NEED FOR THE +CIVIL SERVICE ALLOWANCE+, HE SAID EVERY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE WAS EXPECTED TO KEEP UP TO A CERTAIN IMAGE OF THE SERVICE BY WAY OF BEHAVIOUR, DRESS AND SO ON.

THE SALARY INCREASE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS SHOULD, THEREFORE, ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES TO MEET THOSE EXPECTATIONS, HE ADDED.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE GOVERNMENT FELT THAT THE SALARY INCREASE WAS +EQUITABLE,.....EVEN GENEROUS+.

+BUT WE DON'T EXPECT TO MAKE EVERYBODY HAPPY.

+WE EXPECT MANY PEOPLE TO BE UNHAPPY, BUT, THESE PEOPLE WOULD ALSO BE UNHAPPY EVEN IF THEY WERE GIVEN FOUR OR FIVE INCREASES IN THEIR SALARY+, HE ADDED. —BERNAMA MORE 1838/BY

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THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, IN A LIGHTER VEIN, SAID HE SHOULD KNOW OF THE UNHAPPINESS OF THESE PEOPLE FOR HE HAD STARTED WORKING FOR ONLY \$75 A MONTH, AND NOW THAT HE WAS GETTING AROUND \$4,000 A MONTH, HE FOUND THE AMOUNT +NOT QUITE ENOUGH+.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR THEN HIT OUT AT THOSE TOP CIVIL SERVANTS WHO COMPLAINED OF THEIR POOR PAY IN COMPARISON WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND THE CIVIL SERVICE IN SINGAPORE.

FIRSTLY, HE SAID, THE CIVIL SERVICE IN SINGAPORE WAS STILL LOSING ITS TOP STAFF TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR DESPITE THEIR BETTER PAY.

SECONDLY, THE SINGAPORE GOVERNMENT PAID THEIR PRIME MINISTER \$15,000 OR SO A MONTH WHEREAS MALAYSIA ONLY PAID HER PRIME MINISTER \$5,000 A MONTH.

HE SAID: +SO, I THINK THE PRIME MINISTER SHOULD GO INTO THE PRIVATE SECTOR HIMSELF, HE SAID AMIDST LAUGHTER.

DATUK SERI DR. MAHATHIR ADDED THAT +IF THE PEOPLE MERELY WANTED TO SERVE THE GOVERNMENT FOR MORE PAY THEN THERE SHOULD BE NO DOCTORS SERVING IN THE GOVERNMENT. —BERNAMA 1907/BY