

# MOVE TO

29 NOV 1981

# CUT MINISTERS'

# PAY

**KUALA LUMPUR, Sat. — Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad is studying the possibility of reducing the salaries and allowances of Ministers, Deputy Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries.**

The Prime Minister, who announced this here today, said he was studying this matter with his deputy, Datuk Musa Hitam. An announcement would be made shortly.

Speaking at the opening of the Malaysian Technical Services Union biennial conference, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said there was a similar move previously.

He did not elaborate. The salary of the Prime Minister now is \$8,500, Deputy Prime Minister, \$7,550, a Minister, \$6,500, Deputy Minister, \$5,000 and Parliamentary Secretary, \$3,500.

Their salaries and allowances were increased last year.

In a lighter vein, he said: "To me, the Prime Minister gets a lot of

pay...I get all things free, even my tea here is free and after this I will be attending a dinner which again is free.

"So what's the use of the pay."

The Prime Minister's announcement on the possible pay cut came after he had called on unions in the country to consider carefully the effect of their demands for increases in their salaries

## Industries

However, he said, the workers in this country should bear in mind that their salaries would increase now that there was a labour shortage.

He foresees that with the demand for labour far outstripping supply, salaries would go up.

He said the Government would have to match the pay increases of the private sector for it too had to compete in the labour market.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said new industries were springing up all over the country and they needed manpower.

"Those willing to pay higher wages, will get the labour. Those who are not, will not get the workers they need and so will be forced to pay more," he added.

He said this natural process was what the Government wanted to see.

"We don't want to divorce wages from the economic growth as it will be of no benefit to anybody including the workers.

"Inflation will occur and any increase in

salaries will be negated by the increase in the cost of living."

He called on workers to ensure the economic growth of the nation for "if you stifle it, you will have to pay the price."

He said unions must be careful in their bid to obtain a better deal from the Government or other parties.

"Industrial peace is vital to ensure the rapid development of the country," he said.

Recent measures undertaken by his administration such as clocking-in and checks on output of departments and individuals were aimed at ensuring that national goals were achieved.

On the demand by public sector unions for increases in pay and allowances, the Prime Minister said they considered a move as a decision only if all they want is approved.

"If they don't get what they want or get only part of it, they think no decision has been made.

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"We don't give everything you ask for as we are not in a position to do so."

"It's not my money to give," he quipped.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir also reminded unions that the total cost of their demands and its effects would have to be considered in making a decision.