

MAHATHIR- EXPENDITURE
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KUALA LUMPUR, JULY 30 (BERNAMA) ^(P) DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD TODAY ANNOUNCED A MOVE TO MINIMISE GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE, INCLUDING LIMITING MILEAGE CLAIMS OF CIVIL SERVANTS.

THE MOVE WOULD ALSO INVOLVE USING +ECONOMY LABELS+ ON ENVELOPES, HE SAID BUT DECLINED TO GIVE FURTHER DETAILS.

HE TOLD REPORTERS AFTER CHAIRING AN UMNO SUPREME COUNCIL MEETING HERE THAT THE CHIEF SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT, TAN SRI HASHIM AMAN, WOULD ISSUE A CIRCULAR ON THE MOVE TO ALL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER DATUK MUSA HITAM, WHO WAS ALSO AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE, SAID THE ECONOMY DRIVE WOULD INCLUDE DIRECTING CIVIL SERVANTS TO REDUCE THE USE OF ELECTRICITY AND NOT TO MAKE UNNECESSARY TELEPHONE CALLS.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID THE ECONOMIC SITUATION WAS IMPROVING AND THE ECONOMY DRIVE WAS ONLY A TEMPORARY MEASURE.

--MORE 1755/PA

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+ANY MOVE WE MAKE (TO SAVE EXPENDITURE) NOW IS A TEMPORARY RATHER THAN A PERMANENT MEASURE AND WILL BE IN FORCE ONLY UNTIL THE ECONOMIC SITUATION RETURNS TO NORMAL,+ HE SAID.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HAD SET LIMITS FOR MILEAGE CLAIMS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS.

A CIRCULAR ON THIS SIGNED BY THE DEPARTMENT'S DEPUTY SECRETARY-GENERAL, DATUK ALWI JANTAN, WAS ISSUED TO DEPARTMENT AND DIVISION HEADS ON JULY 20.

OFFICERS ON SUPER SCALE 'E' AND ABOVE CAN MAKE MILEAGE CLAIMS OF UP TO \$1,000 A MONTH WHILE OTHERS IN THE +A+ CATEGORY CAN CLAIM A MAXIMUM OF \$600.

THE MAXIMUM IS \$400 FOR CATEGORY +B+ \$200 FOR CATEGORY +C+ AND \$100 FOR CATEGORY +D+.

--MORE 1756/PA

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ASKED WHETHER THE LIMITS IMPOSED WOULD CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR OFFICERS DOING FIELD WORK, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR JOKINGLY SAID: +THOSE WHO TRAVEL MORE THAN THEY CAN CLAIM WILL HAVE TO USE THEIR OWN MONEY.+

DATUK MUSA SAID MILEAGE CLAIMS WERE TO MEET EXPENSES INCURRED IN DOING FIELD WORK AND +NOT FOR PAYING BACK VEHICLE LOANS+ AS SOME OFFICERS SEEMED THINK.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID TWO DAYS AGO THAT THE MILEAGE CLAIMS OF ALL POLITICAL APOINTEES, INCLUDING POLITICAL SECRETARIES AND PRESS SECRETARIES, HAD BEEN LIMITED TO \$1,000.

--BERNAMA 1759/PA