

# When govt workers can't even be paid

① KUALA TERENGGANU, Thurs. — The Government might not be able to pay civil servants their salaries if the administration was not properly managed under the current economic difficulties, ~~Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad~~ warned tonight.

The Prime Minister said that in some countries, the civil servants had their pay reduced by half and they had to "moonlight" after office hours.

"This could happen here if we cannot properly administer the country," he said at a dinner reception at the residence of Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Amar Haji Wan Mokhtar Ahmad.

To avoid this, he said,

government workers, the private sector and the Government must upgrade their co-operation through the privatisation concept.

He said everyone must realise that the nation's revenue was declining due to the lack of demand for and the drop in price of such commodities as tin, rubber and palm oil and the inability to find new markets.

Under the privatization concept, all relevant quarters would "play together as a team with each playing important roles to carry out," he said.

"The private sector must not think that riches could provide them privileges, Government servants must be dedicated and the Government must

not be arrogant.

"And we must regard ourselves as part of a team."

Dr Mahathir also warned the people against certain quarters trying to erode the people's confidence in the Government.

He said if they succeed, the Government's effort to develop the nation would fail.

He said the people's attitude towards the nation would determine the fate of the country.

"We have no one but ourselves. Even if there is someone willing to help, this will not come free. We will have to pay, maybe not in monetary terms, but in a form that could jeopardise our freedom, our integrity and our self-respect," he added.