

D782

U E927 AAE
MAHATHIR-CUEPACS
BM

86 (P)
KUALA LUMPUR, APRIL 26 (BERNAMA) -- THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT INSINCERE OR PUTTING ITS INTERESTS ABOVE OTHERS IN SOLVING THE CIVIL SERVANTS' SALARY ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS, PRIME MINISTER DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD SAID TODAY.

THE GOVERNMENT WAS NOW FACING A SHORTAGE OF FUNDS, HE SAID, ADDING THAT ALL LEVELS OF SOCIETY SHOULD JOINTLY BEAR THIS BURDEN.

ON THE PROPOSED DISCUSSIONS ON THE WAGE CLAIM ISSUE BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND CUEPACS NEXT MONTH, HE SAID THAT EVEN IF THE DATE WAS BROUGHT FORWARD, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD STILL BE UNABLE TO MEET THE DEMANDS.

+IT WILL NOT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE IF THE DATE IS BROUGHT FORWARD AS THE GOVERNMENT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING OWING TO THE ECONOMIC SITUATION,+ HE SAID.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER OPENING A SEMINAR ON +MALAYSIA'S BIOGRAPHY+ AT UNIVERSITI MALAYA HERE, HE SAID THIS HAD BEEN EXPLAINED SEVERAL TIMES TO THE CUEPACS LEADERS BUT THEY DID NOT WANT TO ACCEPT THIS FACT. -- MORE
1254MST 26 04 86

D796

U E930 AAE
MAHATHIR-CUEPACS 2 KUALA LUMPUR

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR SAID HE HAD ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS MET WITH CUEPACS LEADERS AND HAD RAISED VARIOUS ISSUES ON CURRENT ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AFFECTING THE COUNTRY.

HE SAID THAT IF THEY WANTED TO MEET HIM WITH THE HOPE OF HIS ACCEPTING THEIR VIEWS AND DEMANDS, HE COULD NOT FULFILL IT.

CUEPACS, HE SAID, SHOULD EMULATE WORKER UNIONS IN SINGAPORE AND LOOK CLOSELY AT THE RETRENCHMENT PROBLEM IN THE MINING AND ELECTRONICS INDUSTRIES AND THE NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED GRADUATES.

+IF WE REALLY HAVE THE MONEY, WE WOULD BE ABLE TO EMPLOY THESE PEOPLE,+ HE SAID.

THE GOVERNMENT, HE SAID, HAD A RESPONSIBILITY TO LOOK AFTER THE WELFARE OF NOT ONLY THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES BUT OTHER SECTORS OF SOCIETY AS WELL.

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1323MST 26 04 86

D801

U E931 AAE
MAHATHIR-CUEPACS 3 KUALA LUMPUR

+IF WE HAVE THE MONEY, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE REVISED ITS SALARY SCHEMES WITHOUT HAVING TO BE ASKED, AS WAS DONE IN 1980,+ HE ADDED.

HE SAID THAT IF THE GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CARRIED OUT THEIR THREAT TO STRIKE, THE GOVERNMENT WOULD EMPLOY CERTAIN MEASURES TO ENSURE THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF ITS ADMINISTRATIVE MACHINERY.

DESPITE THE CURRENT RECESSION, THE GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTEND TO RETRENCH ITS STAFF BUT CONTINUED TO PAY THEM THEIR SALARIES AND OTHER ALLOWANCES, HE SAID.

HE SAID THE PRIVATISATION CONCEPT WAS PART OF MOVES TOWARDS RELIEVING THE GOVERNMENT OF THE BURDEN OF PAYING ITS EMPLOYEES WHO HAD INCREASED TO ABOUT 860,000.

THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT UNDER PRIVATISATION THE EMPLOYEES WOULD NOT LOSE EVEN A SEN AND THE GOVERNMENT COULD ALSO GAIN REVENUE FROM PROFITS MADE BY THE COMPANIES CONCERNED. -- MORE
1333MST 26 04 86

D804

U E932 AAE
MAHATHIR - CUEPACS 4 KUALA LUMPUR

EARLIER, WHEN OPENING THE SEMINAR, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID WRITERS OF BIOGRAPHIES SHOULD ALWAYS KEEP IN MIND THE MORAL ASPECT OF THEIR WRITINGS, ESPECIALLY ON MATTERS RELATING TO THE PRIVATE LIVES OF THE PEOPLE THEY WERE WRITING ABOUT.

HE SAID THE COUNTRY HAD NEED OF REFERENCE BOOKS ON PERSONALITIES WHO HAD CONTRIBUTED TO THE COUNTRY.

HE DESCRIBED A GREAT NATION AS ONE WHERE ITS PEOPLE KNEW HOW TO APPRECIATE THE DEEDS OF ITS HEROES.

HE ALSO CALLED ON THE PEOPLE TO REALISE THE IMPORTANCE OF STUDYING HISTORY NOT ONLY AS A GUIDANCE FOR THE FUTURE BUT ALSO TO PREVENT A REPEAT OF PAST MISTAKES.

PRESENT WERE ACTING VICE-CHANCELLOR PROF DATUK HAJAH ASMAM HAJI OMAR AND CHAIRMAN OF THE SEMINAR COMMITTEE, PROF ABU BAKAR HAMID. --
BERNAMA

1338MST 26 04 86