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MAHATHIR-TECHNICIANS

KUALA LUMPUR, JUNE 15 (BERNAMA) -- PRIME MINISTER, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR MOHAMAD, HAS ORDERED AN OVERALL REVIEW OF THE TECHNICAL SERVICES IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR, INCLUDING THE ALLIED GRADES, ACCORDING TO THE MALAYAN TECHNICAL SERVICES UNION (MTSU).

THE REVIEW BY THE PUBLIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT (PSD) WILL COVER THE ENTIRE PUBLIC SECTOR, INCLUDING STATE DEPARTMENTS, STATUTORY BODIES AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR CONVEYED THIS TO THE MTSU AT A MEETING LASTING MORE THAN TWO HOURS AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT HERE TODAY.

SPEAKING TO REPORTERS AFTER THE MEETING, MTSU GENERAL SECRETARY KHAIRUDDIN MYDIN SAID THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO PROMISED TO CREATE MORE PROMOTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR TECHNICIANS.

ACCORDING TO ENCIK KHAIRUDDIN, DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS UNHAPPY WITH THE PIECE-BY-PIECE STUDY CONDUCTED BY THE PSD BEFORE IT IMPLEMENTED ANY UPGRADING EXERCISE. -- MORE.
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MTSU HAD ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO UPGRADE TECHNICIANS FROM C TO THE B CATEGORY AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANTS FROM B TO A CATEGORY. IT ALSO REQUESTED THE UPGRADING EXERCISE FOR TECHNICAL GROUPS TO BE EXTENDED TO THE ALLIED GRADES.

ENCIK KHAIRUDDIN SAID DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR WAS NON-COMMITTAL TO THE UNION'S CLAIMS. +HOWEVER, HE SHOWED A LOT OF UNDERSTANDING AND WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE CLAIMS,+ HE ADDED.

NO TIME FRAME HAS BEEN FIXED FOR COMPLETION OF THE REVIEW. BUT, THE UNION HOPES IT CAN BE COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS.

ENCIK KHAIRUDDIN SAID THE PRIME MINISTER STRESSED THAT THE REVIEW WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND THE GOVERNMENT'S FINANCIAL CAPABILITY TO IMPLEMENT THE EXERCISE.

DATUK SERI DR MAHATHIR ALSO POINTED OUT THAT IF A PARTICULAR SERVICE GROUP IS UPGRADED, OTHER GROUPS WOULD ALSO BE MAKING THEIR OWN CLAIMS. -- MORE

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HOWEVER, HE TOLD THE MTSU DELEGATION THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS GIVING EMPHASIS TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF BLUE COLLAR JOBS AND TECHNICAL SERVICES TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

ENCIK KHAIRUDDIN HOPED THAT IN UNDERTAKING THE STUDY, THE PSD WOULD TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VIEWS FROM THE UNION.

HE ALSO HOPED THAT A MEETING WOULD BE HELD WITH MTSU WHEN THE STUDY IS COMPLETED FOR IMPLEMENTATION.

ALSO PRESENT AT THE MEETING WAS MINISTER IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT, DATUK DR YUSOF NOR, AND PSD DIRECTOR-GENERAL DATUK MAHMUD TAIB.

-- BERNAMA

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