

PM: CABINET DECISION SOON

Salary study in final stages

By SHARIFFHAMID

THE Government is expected to announce by the end of the year the salary increase for its 885,000 employees.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Cabinet Committee on Salary Adjustment, which he chairs, has been looking into the matter since early this year.

The study is now in the final stages and the Cabinet will decide on the percentage of the salary increase soon, he said, adding that "we hope we can come up with the adjusted salaries fast, before the end of the year".

"This is in line with our promise to Cuepacs during our meeting early this year that we will study the matter. We have been looking into it since then," he told reporters at the Kuala Lumpur International Airport in Subang yesterday before leaving for Mexico for a six-day visit, the first by a Malaysian prime minister.

The Prime Minister said the study on

the salary review takes time as it is a complex exercise needing careful and in-depth approach.

"Although the committee's study is in the final stages, it is still not finalised as we have not yet decided on the percentage and it needs to be approved by the Cabinet."

"So, we cannot announce the actual percentage of increase until we have completed the study on the overall salary structure," he added.

On his visit, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir said he will explain the proposed East Asia Economic Grouping (EAEG) to Mexico as well as Malaysia's stand on various issues.

"Apart from matters pertaining to bilateral relations, I will also discuss the impact of the formation of the North America Free Trade Area (Nafta), of which Mexico will become a member along with the US and Canada by 1993," he added.