

CNS3078
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CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE TO REFUND OVERPAYMENT, SAYS MAHATHIR

Mahathir - Salary

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KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 10⁵² (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight civil servants who have been overpaid should refund the money to the government.

The Prime Minister said this was necessary because the overpaid sum was not theirs.

He, however, gave an assurance that the government would be fair to the affected civil servants and the mode of repayment would not burden them.

Dr Mahathir was commenting on press reports that about 25,000 civil servants had been overpaid in the past 10 years due to a mistake in the conversion of their salary scheme.

Speaking to reporters after chairing the UMNO Supreme Council meeting here, the Prime Minister said the government would also take action against those responsible for the mistake. -- more

▼11/02/00-12MST

CNS3083

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Mahathir-Salary 2 Kuala Lumpur

The Prime Minister said it would be unfair to other civil servants if those who had been overpaid were not required to refund them.

He said: +We are not pressuring them but we want to be fair to everybody.+

+If we have taken more then we have to return it. This is one of the noble qualities,+ he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government had to act in that manner as money involved belonged to the people and the government was only entrusted to manage it.

+We have been entrusted to manage the people's money. If we are not responsible it would be difficult,+ he said. -- more

▼11/02/00-31MST

CNS3084

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When asked about Cuepacs' intention to resort to industrial action if the overpayment of salary was not written-off, Dr Mahathir said: +That is their right+.

+Our right is just to take back our money,+ he added.

Cuepacs Secretary General A.H. Ponniah requested the government to write-off the overpayment since the mistake was not caused by the affected civil servants.

Dr Mahathir also said he did not have further information on the matter as he came to know it only from press reports.

Finance Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, when asked, said the Public Services Department was investigating the matter. -- Bernama

▼11/02/00-33MST