

PM: Don't hope for fixed yearly bonus

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KUALA LUMPUR: Civil servants should not expect a permanent yearly bonus although they are now under the New Remuneration Scheme, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

He said bonus for civil servants was tied up to the economic performance, revenue earned and financial standings of the country.

"If bonus is made a permanent feature, it is not bonus anymore. The payment can be interpreted as arrears.

"Bonus is not meant as a yearly incentive for officers and staff in the civil service," Dr Mahathir added at the opening of the 19th

Cuepacs Triennial Convention yesterday.

His speech was read by Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek.

Dr Mahathir assured that the Government would give bonus to civil servants as promised under the new salary scheme if the economic and financial standings of the country permitted it to do so.

Cuepacs has urged the Government to pay bonus at the end of the year because it was promised under the new scheme.

However, Dr Mahathir had stated that it could only be decided next year after the Government had taken stock of its financial and economic standing.

Dr Mahathir also criticised the attitude of some civil servants

who are still not performing their duties properly.

He said this was reflected by the number of complaints written by the public in the newspapers.

"The complaints include potholes, disrupted water supply, garbage disposal, unsatisfactory medical treatment and poor public transport service.

"Although such matters are trivial, it is of most important to the public," he said.

The Prime Minister also reminded civil servants who were involved in providing services to be sensitive to the needs of the public.

He added that those who shirked their duties did not deserve to be in the public sector.