

PM: Follow State directives

By Saiful Azhar Abdullah, Zubaidah Abu Bakar and Rajesh Taluar

CONST 18 DEC 1992

JHRA, Thurs. — All civil servants must implement directives issued at the State level if the directives do not contravene the laws, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

“If the directives have good intentions, there is no reason for them not to execute them.

“However, if Federal and State Government officers receive directives which contravene the laws, they should refer to their heads of departments,” Dr Mahathir said after visiting the Pasar Mini Syarikat Kerjasama Kaum Ibu Kubang Pasu Timur at Kepala Batu here.

He was responding to questions from reporters at certain State civil servants were uncertain whether to abide by the directives from State officials following the Johor controversy.

Asked whether the Government planned to streamline the functions of the federal and State civil service, Dr Mahathir said:

“The Government does not have plans to streamline the State and Federal civil service because the State civil service belongs to the State Government.”

In view of the existing structure of the State civil service, there will be problems to streamline the State and Federal civil services, he added.

Asked to comment on reports that Primary Indus-

tries Minister Datuk Seri Dr Lim Keng Yaik had proof that the Pahang palace had pressured the forestry officers and police during their investigation into two concession areas which were given to the royal family, Dr Mahathir said he wanted to see the proof to determine whether the allegations were true.

Earlier when speaking at the *Majlis Sepetang Bersama Perdana Menteri* at Sekolah Kebangsaan Seri Banai here, the Prime Minister praised Malaysians for their understanding of the country's democratic system.

He said the *rakyat* were disciplined and lived harmoniously, adding that this was the envy of other countries in search of true democracy.

“In Malaysia, the people understand the meaning of freedom under a democratic system. They do not go overboard but conduct matters in an organised manner.

“People used to say that we did not know how to handle democracy, but they are now asking how we can lead harmonious lives and use democracy effectively for the benefit of the country.”

He, however, said this did not mean that the running of Malaysia was easy as compared with other countries without multi-racial societies.

However, with the co-operation of the people, the running of the country was

smooth, he said.

Dr Mahathir added that slight problems were experienced in Sabah and Kelantan, but these posed no barrier in the lives of Malaysians.

He cited examples of researchers from South Africa, the South Pacific and Indochina who visited Malaysia to study the multi-racial democratic system.

Many other countries which practised communism were also interested in the country's success.

“This shows the success of our system. We must be thankful that we know how to use democracy effectively.”

Not all countries had such advantages, said Dr Mahathir, adding that many tried but had failed to sustain democratic systems.

“Some of these nations stopped being democratic as they were plagued by racial disharmony, strikes and bad economies. This is because they did not understand democracy.”

The Prime Minister reminded the people that it was they who decided who their leaders should be.

“If their leader has not worked hard, they can choose someone else. This is not the case in an autocratic system.”

Dr Mahathir added that Malaysians must hold their heads high and stand tall at all levels to obtain the respect of other developing countries.