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Mahathir-salary

ADDITIONAL RM96 MILLION TO ENSURE EVERYONE BENEFITS FROM ADJUSTMENT

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- The government has agreed to allocate an additional RM96 million for the payment of salary adjustment to ensure that every group of civil servants benefit from the adjustment, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said tonight.

He said that in trying to resolve the matter, the government had to consider fairly the services rendered by all categories of civil servants.

"We can't just give to one particular group without considering other groups who also serve and are responsible for the success of the government," he told reporters after the breaking of the fast with senior officers of the Home Ministry at Balai Felde here.

Also present were Datin Seri Dr Siti Hasmah Mohd Ali, Deputy Home Minister Datuk Megat Junid Megat Ayob and Inspector-General of Police (IGP) Tan Sri Rahim Noor.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Home Minister, said the government had to include the top management group in the salary adjustment exercise although they were initially excluded by Cuepacs in its claim for salary adjustment for civil servants.

He was commenting on the salary adjustment announced by Public Services Department (PSD) Director-General Dr Mazlan Ahmad earlier during the day for 840,000 civil servants.

The salary adjustment package, which also includes a fixed housing monthly allowance of RM85 and RM95 for 655,000 civil servants in the Support Group and Management and Professional Group respectively, will cost the government RM2.096 billion, RM96 million more than that agreed previously.

Under the salary adjustment, those in the Support Group will receive RM40 more, Management and Professional Group RM60 and top Management Group RM100. The pay increase is backdated to Jan 1, 1995. The civil servants will receive their new salaries in May.

On the government's decision to pay one month's salary or RM650 which ever is lower as the advance for the arrears, Dr Mahathir said the government had to set a ceiling to avoid civil servants especially those with higher pay to reimburse the difference if their arrears were less.

On the possibility that traders might take advantage of the pay increase to raise the prices of goods, he said, "Don't buy if the price is high...I hope, they will not spend it all. Learn to invest, buy shares and in this way they will get more their money." --BERNAMA