

15 AUG 1996

Mahathir-Salary

GOVT TO REVIEW SERVICE SCHEME FOR POLICE

KUALA LUMPUR, Aug 15 (Bernama) -- The government is prepared to review the service scheme of the Royal Malaysia Police (PDRM), including terms of recruitment, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Dr Mahathir, who is Home Minister, said a study would be carried out by the Public Services Department (PSD) based on a proposal submitted by the police to upgrade the force.

The proposal would include new entry requirements for constables and inspectors, he told reporters after visiting the Bukit Aman federal police headquarters here.

PDRM had proposed that the qualification for intake of recruits be raised from Sijil Rendah Pelajaran (SRP) to Sijil Pelajaran Malaysia (SPM), he said.

"If the entry requirement is raised, we need to give additional pay," he said.

Inspector-General of Police Tan Sri Abdul Rahim Noor said PDRM was seeking a review because the last revision of the service scheme was done in the mid-1970s.

"Our present scheme is old and outdated. PDRM is preparing a working paper on proposed changes to the service scheme for submission to the Home Ministry," he said.

Rahim said the proposed changes would involve the academic terms for appointment, period of training and service, ranks and promotional prospects.

The proposal, expected to be similar to the banded scheme implemented under the New Remuneration System (SSB), would involve all PDRM uniformed personnel, he said.

He said efforts to modernise the PDRM, including in terms of logistics, manpower and management, would be incomplete if the service scheme was not changed.

In his speech, Dr Mahathir advised police personnel to steer clear of corruption and to maintain the noble values which had been practised all this while so that Malaysia can become a developed country.

Corrupt practices would indirectly affect a country's development and burden the people, he said.

"Although it cannot be denied that corruption exists in the country, it is not widespread and does not affect the conduct of national administration," he said.

He expressed confidence that all police personnel would stick firmly to positive values and principles to ensure the force remains disciplined and free from undesirable activities.

"God willing, as long as we have a force which is disciplined and rejects unhealthy activities, our country will continue to develop," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the PDRM should strive for greater achievements because it was a security fence for the country and the people.

"The role and achievement of the police have been increasing with time but we should not be complacent. We should further improve our capability," he said.

He said the peace and progress enjoyed by the country was mainly due to an efficient and disciplined police force which had discharged its duty well.

"If we did not have a responsible police force, it would have been impossible for our country to be peaceful...if there is no peace, the country cannot develop," he said. -- BERNAMA

SN YBY