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Parliament-Mahathir

NO DOUBLE STAND ON SALARY REVISION, SAYS DR M

KUALA LUMPUR, April 9 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that the government did not adopt differing stands when it decided to give civil servants extra pay increases over the revision agreed to recently.

"Those running the government machinery at the central level are mortals who also sometimes make mistakes," the Prime Minister told the Dewan Rakyat.

He was replying to a supplementary question from Datuk Haji Sukri Mohamed (S46-Machang) on why civil servants would be getting higher salary increases following the latest revision and whether this was due to lack of a proper study by the government.

Dr Mahathir said the government decided on the increases because it wanted to fully utilise the money allocated for the revision despite certain changes made to the earlier offer.

The review of the pension formula was to ensure that the pension given was not as much as the pay enjoyed by a civil servant while in service, he said.

"The government's principle is that a worker's pension should not equal his last drawn salary but the review showed that we did not abide by this principle," he said.

Following this, fresh discussions were held with Cuepacs regarding the pension formula.

To the original question from Haji Mohamad Abdullah (S46-Pasir Puteh), Dr Mahathir said the benefits of any salary adjustment would only be enjoyed by those under the scheme of service involved in the review.

The 1995 salary revision to the New Remuneration System (SSB) was specifically for those under SSB, and thus only these people would enjoy the benefits, he said.

When the SSB new salary scheme was implemented on Jan 1 1992, all civil servants were given the option offer and they had three months from that date to decide whether to accept or reject it, he said.

To a supplementary question from Mohd Isa Sabu (BN-Kangar), Dr Mahathir said civil servants were briefed on SSB and those who refused to accept it felt that it would be better for them to remain in the old scheme.

But when salary adjustments were made to the new scheme, they wanted to get the same benefits as those enjoyed by people who opted for the new scheme, he said.

However, the government felt that they were ineligible for the benefits, he added. -- Bernama

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