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Government bodies get deadline for reports

SHAH ALAM, Thurs. - Government agencies and statutory bodies have been given until the end of the year to submit all their backdated annual reports and financial statements.

Some of the agencies and statutory bodies have not submitted their annual reports and financial statements as far back as 1987.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Mohd Ali today said the Dec 31 deadline was for the submission of all backdated reports and not current reports.

The current annual reports, which were for last year, he said, must be submitted by today.

Until the end of last year, 148 financial statements, dating back to 1987, had not been submitted by the State statutory bodies.

Local authorities have also not submitted 66 financial statements (from 1992 to 1995) while Islamic religious departments have yet to submit 22 from 1993 to 1995.

"Agencies and statutory bodies which fail to adhere to the directive to send all their backdated annual reports and financial statements before the end of the year and their 1996 reports by today will be asked to explain.

"There should be no reason why they still fail to do so when they have been reminded many times," he said, adding that the directive was to ensure that government agencies kept updated and precise reports, especially those pertaining to their financial expenditures and performance.

Abdul Halim was speaking to reporters after presenting certificates to trainees who had completed their training at a centre for industrial and skill training here today.

He said since early this year, he had had several meetings and dialogues with State finance officers and the top management of the agencies and statutory bodies on the agencies' failure to prepare their annual reports and financial statements according to schedule.

The matter, he said, had also been brought up during his meetings with the Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The directive to prepare the annual reports and financial statements according to schedule was issued by the former Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji late last year.

On last year's annual reports, Abdul Halim said most of the statutory bodies and agencies had already submitted them before the July 31 deadline.

He said he was satisfied with the quality of reports submitted so far, which had shown marked improvement in contents and precision compared to previous years.

It was clear, he said, that all it took for the agencies and statutory bodies to come out with their annual reports in time were greater discipline and commitment.

"However, we have to wait until the financial statements in the reports have been audited for the comments from the Auditor-General to find out how they fare in the preparation of the financial statements," he added.

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