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Mahathir-Service

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 7 (Bernama) -- Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today he derives lots of satisfaction from the invaluable achievements of the government despite the "disappointingly small salary" which the premiership brings.

The Prime Minister said the salary of the Prime Minister was small compared to that of some officers who worked under him and hence he had much cause for feeling disappointed.

"I am very disappointed because my salary is small. Those serving under me are paid bigger salaries, use bigger cars and can use their own planes."

"I am envious. I ought to ask for a bigger salary as Prime Minister," he said when responding to complaints from delegates who said they were disappointed because they did not get anything even though they had given long and faithful service to the party.

Dr Mahathir said he felt a sense of satisfaction for being able to bring through the Umno struggle a lot of good to the people and the country.

The Prime Minister's monthly salary is about RM17,000 compared to RM30,000 or more of certain chief executive officers of government owned companies.

Dr Mahathir said he was also very satisfied to see Malaysia once a padi planting and rubber cultivating country which had now progressed much where the people were their own masters able to determine their own future.

To members who were disappointed because they did not get anything even though they had long served Umno, when others got posts as ministers, prime minister and so on, Dr Mahathir said: "Actually this is not true. If we serve and expect something in return, we will forever be disappointed."

"The returns we get for our struggle is the fruit of our struggle," he said to loud applause from delegates.

He said from a colonized race which served as coolie to others, "we have become our own masters, a respected race which was no longer looked down upon and humiliated."

Many countries had sought Malaysia's views, opinion and advice because they looked up to Malaysia and acknowledged that this country had been more successful than theirs.

"These are the returns we get and this is what should satisfy us," he added. -- BERNAMA

AU AAM