

21 DEC 1998

Holiday

CIVIL SERVANTS WORK 15 MINUTES LONGER FROM NEXT MONTH

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 21 (Bernama) -- Starting Jan 1 public sector workers will work 15 minutes longer on a full working day and seven minutes less on a half-working day to justify the extra monthly rest day as proposed in the 1999 Budget, according to a Public Services Department (PSD) circular.

PSD Director-General Datuk Samsudin Osman said in the circular that the first Saturday or Thursday of each month has been fixed as the rest day.

As such the new working hours for states taking Saturday as the rest day are 8am to 4.30pm, Monday to Friday and 8am to 12.38pm on Saturday.

For states taking Thursday as the rest day, the new working hours are 8am to 4.15pm, Saturday to Wednesday, and 8am to 12.38pm on Thursday.

When tabling the 1999 budget last Oct 23 Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced an extra rest day in a month for civil servants as part of efforts to create a caring society by them visiting parents and relatives and in so doing, they would also stimulate domestic tourism.

Samsudin's announcement came in service circulars number seven of 1998 and number eight of 1998, both dated Dec 16 1998.

For those working in staggered hours (group one), the working hours are from 7.30am to 4pm (Monday-Thursday) with a break from 12.15pm to 1.30pm.

For group two, the working hours are 8.15am to 4.45pm (Monday-Thursday) with the break from 1.30pm to 2.45pm.

The working hours for Friday are from 8.15am to 4.45pm and the break from 12.15pm to 2.45pm.

The working hours on Saturday are from 8.37am to 1.15pm.

Overtime pay for those doing overtime work on a Saturday or a Thursday rest day will be calculated according to the double rate paid for weekend overtime work, said Samsudin.

He said if a public holiday falls on a Saturday or Thursday rest day, the following Saturday or Thursday will be the rest day.

He said the Saturday or Thursday rest day applies only to public sector personnel working five full days and a half-working day in a week.

The rest day differed from a public holiday or a weekend rest day in that the time used for the facility would have to be replaced, he added.

-- BERNAMA

ARA MAI rn