

23 OCT 1998

MAHATHIR: ONE SATURDAY PER MONTH HOLIDAY TO START IN JANUARY

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 23 (Bernama) -- The one Saturday per month to be declared a holiday for public sector employees will start next January, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

Civil servants could use the holiday to rest and relax or tour the country, he said.

"The working hours will be the same for the month as they may have to work half an hour longer on certain days to make up for the Saturday holiday," Dr Mahathir, who is also First Finance Minister, told reporters at the Parliament lobby after tabling the 1999 Budget.

Dr Mahathir, in proposing the Saturday holiday for civil servants when tabling the budget, said the private sector was also encouraged to do likewise.

The Public Services Department will issue a circular on implementation of the proposal which is aimed at developing the domestic tourism sector.

-- BERNAMA

NHD JK