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Mahathir-Salary

NO SALARY INCREASE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS DURING ECONOMIC SLOWDOWN

KUALA LUMPUR, May 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today the current economic slowdown in the country does not allow a salary increase for government servants.

This was because the government's revenue from taxes was decreasing and would continue to drop if the economic slump dragged on, he said.

"I believe the government's revenue is dropping, hence it is unlikely that our salaries will be raised," he said when launching the Quality Day of the Implementation Coordination Unit in the Prime Minister's department, here.

He said the profits of companies had dropped, resulting in the government collecting less in taxes.

"For example, Sime Bank, which previously made up to RM2 billion in profits, is now in the red, meaning that the government has lost RM56 million, or 28 per cent, in corporate taxes," he said.

He said the reduction in company profits had resulted not only in retrenchment of workers but cuts in the perks for senior officers.

He said the import tax collected was also not as big as before because companies, for example, no longer wanted to buy luxury cars.

On quality, the prime minister said it was important because improving quality would benefit the people and the nation.

"If we are efficient, we can do more work and when more work is done, the government will get more and our salaries can be increased," he said.

Dr Mahathir also launched the book, "Penggerak Jentera Pembangunan", published by the unit and presented excellent service awards to 24 of its officers and staff.

The book, on the establishment and development of the unit, gives a clearer picture of its role and duties in coordinating the implementation of the policies, programmes and projects during the era of the New Economic Policy and National Development Policy.

Present were Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Chong Kah Kiat, Perlis Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali.

-- BERNAMA

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