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Ah Lek to look into pay rise delay for five agencies

NILAI, Fri. - Human Resources Minister Datuk Lim Ah Lek said today he would check with the Public Service Department over the delay in the pay increase of five statutory agencies announced by the Prime Minister on June 4.

He said he would have to find out what was actually delaying the matter as Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had earlier directed the PSD to implement the salary adjustments.

The adjustments would involve more than 10,000 staff of the Social Security Organisation, The Employees Provident Fund, Bank Simpanan Nasional, Tabung Haji and the Armed Forces Fund Board.

Dr Mahathir had said staff of these agencies would get a pay rise of between RM150 and RM200 and that the exercise would incur the Government RM92.4 million in financial implications.

"The funding would come from the respective agencies and not directly from the Government," Lim said after presenting scholarship awards to Inti College students.

During the ceremony, 198 students received scholarship awards totalling RM2 million given out by the college this year. Also present was Inti College president Tan Yew Sing.

Lim was responding to a question that the employees of the five agencies would embark on a picket following the delay in implementing the salary adjustments backdated to January 1995.

He advised the agencies not to proceed with their intention to picket as the Government, especially the Prime Minister, had been instrumental in ordering the pay rise.

"Although the salary adjustments issue is not under my purview, I had personally taken up the matter with the Cabinet. Therefore, I hope the staff will not resort to such a move," he said, adding he was surprised to hear of it.

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