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It's a holiday today for bank and government employees

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KUALA LUMPUR, Fri. - Tomorrow is not just any Saturday - at least not for those working in government departments, banks and finance companies.

While certain businesses may open their doors to customers as usual, staff of financial institutions and the Government are having an extended holiday following the decision to declare the first Saturday of each month as an extra rest day.

These workers have more reason to smile because their first Saturday off will make the weekend especially long, what with Friday - the first day of the year - being a public holiday.

Those scurrying to government departments and banks tomorrow hoping to be rendered services will be sorely disappointed.

Despite announcements in newspapers and television, it is expected that many will still be caught unawares of the closure.

Director-General of Public Service Datuk Samsudin Osman announced last month that in States where Sunday is a public holiday, civil servants will get a day off on the first Saturday of each month.

In States where Friday is a public holiday, the first Thursday of each month will be a holiday.

A check by the New Straits Times today showed that most banks and finance companies have put notices informing customers of their closure tomorrow.

In Kelantan and Terengganu, which observe Friday as their holiday, the extra rest day will fall on the first Thursday of the month.

The Association of Banks in Malaysia and the Association of Finance Companies of Malaysia both announced that if the first Saturday or Thursday of the month coincides with a public holiday, the rest day for banks and finance companies would be the following Saturday or Thursday.

The extra rest day was announced by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad when tabling the 1999 Budget on Oct 23.

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