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Government shows it really cares for staff

Dr John Samuel

THE Government has proved once again that it has the interest of its employees at heart by announcing the payment of RM600 per employee spread over six months beginning next month, (NST, June 4).

Taking into consideration the higher cost of living, the caring Government of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad lost no time in sharing the monetary gain resulting from the favourable change in our economy.

The payment is also in appreciation of the sacrifice, service and loyalty of the civil servants when the economy was derailed.

The magnanimity of the Government is seen in its offer of this reward to pensioners who have depended on its largesse for increased pensions with every pay-rise enjoyed by civil servants to cope with the inevitable increase in the cost of living over time.

While thanking the Government on behalf of all pensioners, I would like to make a plea to the Government that the quantum of this payment be the same as for serving officers, as pensioners really come under the lower-income group as they receive only half their salary as pension.