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Mahathir-Salary

PM ANNOUNCES PAY RISE FOR 10,000 STAFF OF STATUTORY BODIES

SEPANG, June 4 (Bernama) -- More than 10,000 staff of five statutory bodies will get pay increase of between RM150 and RM200, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced here today.

They are staff of the Social Security Organisation (Socso), the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), Bank Simpanan Nasional (BN), Tabung Haji and the Armed Forces Fund Board.

The pay rise, which followed the government's approval of salary adjustments to these personnel, would be backdated to January 1995.

This decision would incur the government RM92.4 million in financial implication, the prime minister told a news conference at the KL International Airport here on his return from a week-long visit to Japan.

Dr Mahathir explained the adjustment would entail "topping-up" RM200 a month for those in the executive group and RM150, in the non-executive category.

He said executives at par with those in the civil service's top management group would also receive increased entertainment allowance between RM1,000 and RM2,000 and between RM500 and RM1,000 in maid allowance effective Jan 1, 1996.

The prime minister said salary adjustments for staff of statutory bodies were treated separately from those made to the civil service in 1992.

No adjustment was considered for them previously, partly because the economic situation did not permit it.

"The government appreciates the understanding and patience of the staff of the statutory bodies involved, especially those in the support group, in facing the situation," he said.

Dr Mahathir said the government agreed to the salary adjustment because there were positive signs of further economic recovery.

The government hoped that the approval would help ease the financial burden of the staff concerned, especially those in the support group, while spurring them towards increasing productivity, Dr Mahathir said.

Dr Mahathir said: " This has nothing to do with the general election. In fact we are just giving this (approval for the salary adjustment) to meet service requirements only."

He stressed this in response to suggestions raised at the press conference linking the salary adjustment approval and the RM600 special payment for civil service announced yesterday to the impending general election.

" The government approves this payment to fill national needs, not to meet the need of the general election," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that if everything were to be linked to the general election, the government would just let the economic problems set in without taking any measures like imposing currency controls.

-- BERNAMA

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