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PM: We'll pay bonus if we can afford it

PETALING JAYA, Wed. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said the Government was considering requests for bonus payments to civil servants.

He said he saw no reason why a bonus should not be given if the Government could afford it.

Dr Mahathir, who spoke at a Press conference at the Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport upon arrival from Zimbabwe, was asked about Cuepacs' request for a RM1,000 bonus for each government employee.

He said government servants were given a bonus this year although Cuepacs did not ask for it.

"This Government is not going to ill-treat its employees and deny them what is due to them, but we can only give them what we can afford.

"If we can afford it, why not? But if we cannot afford it, I hope that the people will not resort to industrial action," he said.

Asked if the climate was right for an election, he said the climate was always right for an election.

"Immediately after the last election also, we could have held another election. The climate was right," he said to laughter, but added that the climate wasn't the sole factor to consider.

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