

27 APR 1999

Salary

SALARY ADJUSTMENT CLAIMS MAY BE SETTLED BY JUNE, AFFIFUDDIN SAYS

KUALA TERENGGANU, April 27 (Bernama) -- Claims for salary adjustment by more than 10,050 staffers of five statutory agencies may be resolved by June, Deputy Human Resources Minister Datuk Dr Affifuddin Omar indicated today.

The ministry had already met representatives of the five agencies to discuss their demand and they in turned gave the ministry until June to resolve the matter, he said.

The statutory bodies concerned are the Pilgrims' Fund Board, Bank Simpanan Nasional (BSN), the Employees Provident Fund (EPF), the Social Security Organisation (Socso) and the Armed Forces Fund Board.

"The government is studying the claims. We hope they remain patient since the government has given the assurance that the matter will be resolved soon," he told reporters here.

Earlier, he opened a seminar for 25 participants nation-wide on the role of negotiations in dispute settlement organised by the East Asia Multidisciplinary Advisory Team (Easmat) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

On Dec 24 1997, staffers of the five statutory bodies, in an appeal letter to Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, claimed that they were paid lower than their other public sector counterparts.

Affifuddin also said the government was doubling efforts for the civil service and the private sector to attain the ISO 9000 standard in service quality.

He said most of the sectors in the country merited the ISO 9000 rating, such as the hotel and airline sectors whose service quality far exceeded those of other countries in the region.

Affifuddin dispelled suggestions that service quality in the country was static compared to that of other countries.

"Obviously, if we look from within, we may think there is no improvement. On the other hand when we compare service quality in some other countries, Malaysia is far better," he added.

-- BERNAMA

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