

01 MAR 2000

Samy-salary

CABINET WANTS SALARY PROPOSAL REPORT NEXT WEEK

KUALA LUMPUR, March 1 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad has directed the Human Resources Development Ministry to prepare a report on the salary proposal for the plantation workers for next week's cabinet meeting.

Works Minister Datuk Seri S Samy Vellu said it is a positive sign for over 200,000 plantation workers nationwide.

"With the attention given by the PM, I believe the matter could be resolved in a few months' time or before the end of the year," he said after a post cabinet meeting at the ministry, here.

Samy Vellu said the Human Resources Ministry's report would among others contain details on the workers' wages over the past five years which would be used for comparison when studying the salary proposal.

"After tabling the report, the cabinet will decide on ways to resolve the issue," he said.

He said the National Union of Plantation Workers (NUPW) had informed him that their discussion with Malaysian Agricultural Producers Association (MAPA) had stopped as MAPA had rejected many of its proposals on the salary proposal.

It is a sensitive issue since it involves the interest of the workers, whose standard of living remained as it was a decade ago, he said.

Samy Vellu said 39 per cent of the plantation workers are Indians, 38 per cent Malays and the rest either contract or foreign workers.

He advised the NUPW to be patient and not to resort to picketing as planned, following the breakdown in talk with MAPA.

-- BERNAMA

rv nak pr abg