

Don't be too disappointed, Dr M tells civil servants

SEREMBAN: Civil servants must not be too disappointed if the Government is not able to fulfil their demands for higher salary, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said last night.

He said they should understand that the Government must prioritise its spending on more important matters, like providing necessary infrastructure for the people.

Dr Mahathir said their increased efficiency would further develop the economy and thus would put the Government in a better position to consider their demands for salary increases in future.

He also called on the people not to take for granted the development projects put in place by the Government for their benefit.

He said that while it was the government's duty to provide all these facilities, not many developing countries were able to do so.

"Many of these countries are forced to go begging from bigger powers to govern and provide for their people. Because of that, they lose their freedom to decide their own fate.

"That is not so in Malaysia. We never had to compromise our dignity and beg for foreign help even at the time when we faced severe economic problem," he said.

Dr Mahathir said because of the full support from the people, the government was able to preserve the country's dignity and sovereignty.

Malaysia, he said, could determine its own fate and policy without having to fear intervention from bigger powers because the country did not owe them anything.

"We can even criticise them if we feel that they are wrong unlike some other countries which have to take the dictates of other powers in return for the monetary aid," he added.