

Civil servants must sign pledge, says PM

STAR 9 OCT 2001

KUALA LUMPUR: It is compulsory for civil servants, including university lecturers, to sign the good conduct pledge.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said government servants used to abide by the General Orders in the past but some among them have chosen to ignore it.

Some 950,000 civil servants signed the pledge after the Cabinet approved its enforcement last Wednesday.

Dr Mahathir said that university students also signed the pledge.

Minister in the Prime

Minister's Department Datuk Dr Rais Yatim was reported as saying that the move was to ensure that civil servants and university students did not get involved in "negative activities."

Dr Mahathir said it was not necessary to table the proposal in Parliament as it did not involve amendments to any Act.

"It will be included in regulations but not in an Act," he told reporters at the Parliament lobby yesterday.

Meanwhile, Cuepacs sought a meeting with Dr Mahathir to discuss the mandatory

requirement for civil servants to sign the pledge, its president Datuk N. Siva Subramaniam said.

"We want to look at the entire objective and hear Dr Mahathir's views and see how best to resolve the issue," he said.

"We will take Cuepacs council members to the meeting so they will know what was discussed and decide on the issue. We have an open mind and, whatever our decision, the nation's interest will come first," he said, adding that an early meeting had been requested.