

PM asks for report on dept meetings

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KUALA LUMPUR, Tues: The prime minister has asked the chief secretary to the government to prepare a status report on the departmental consultative council meetings.

Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad asked Tan Sri Samsudin Osman to submit the report as soon as possible in response to claims that 50% of such meetings are not taking place despite being implemented some time ago.

The consultative council meetings are held for civil

servants to air their grievances, provide feedback, and suggest improvements to the government administration.

Approached by reporters today, Samsudin said there are some government departments which have yet to set up the departmental consultative council, and others have a council but have yet to hold meetings.

"We all heard the PM asking for the report during his speech earlier, so I will ask for feedback from the respective departments on the formation and the meetings which have been held so far," he said.

"What's important is for the consultative meeting not

to be seen as a burden but as an appropriate forum to hear employees' views on various issues, which will be instant feedback."

Among the issues raised at the meetings, which are required to be held at least three to four times a year, are requests for covered parking lots, he said.

On the new remuneration scheme (NRS), Samsudin said the government will review the proposal to improve on it and work out something which addresses the employees' needs.

He said the feedback so far showed that the main grouse was over the performance-based assessment, which is

conducted manually.

"Since it is conducted by a person, the method has created a lot of dissatisfaction with allegations of bias and a lack of objectivity," he said.

Samsudin said the government was trying to improve on the scheme and once it is completed, the report will be submitted to the cabinet for approval.

Cuepacs president N. Siva Subramaniam told reporters he was confident the government will complete the report by June.

He said the NRS was first implemented in 1982 based on similar schemes in other countries but since then, the schemes have also changed.