

More govt dept heads holding staff meetings

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PADANG BESAR: More government department heads are holding meetings with their staff, a move suggested by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad.

The meetings, through their respective joint departmental councils (JDC), were to hear grouses and complaints of the civil servants.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman said there had been improvements after Dr Mahathir called for more such meetings.

"I am happy to say that there has been some progress on the matter," he told report-

ers after launching the Independence Walk 2001 programme at the Fisheries Board Complex here yesterday.

Samsuddin said it was important that government departments hold such meetings at least four times a year as it would give an avenue for the staff to highlight what was not right in their departments.

He admitted that not all grouses could be quickly resolved but it was important that complaints reach the department heads.

"If heads are not well-informed on their own depart-

ment they would seem not to have done their work," he said.

Samsuddin also said that he had sent a report to Dr Mahathir on the matter and was in the process of preparing a second report.

In his speech, Samsuddin said that 44 years of independence would be deemed fragile and easily threatened if the people were not united and patriotic.

He said the chronology of incidents such as Bukit Kepong, confrontation with Indonesia and the Philippines, May 13 and Bukit Jenalik, Sauk could not be taken lightly.