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LEAD Budget-Bonus

HALF MONTH'S BONUS, 10 PCT SALARY HIKE FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 19 (Bernama) -- More than 900,000 civil servants will enjoy a bonus of a half month's salary or at least RM1,000 this year and a 10 per cent pay hike next year.

Unveiling the 2002 Budget at Dewan Rakyat today, Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said half of the bonus amount will be paid this month and the rest in November.

"I hope the bonus will be able to meet expenses for the coming festivals as well as for those with school-going children, when schools reopen," he said.

On the increase in salary, Dr Mahathir said the government was concerned over the income of its officers and staff.

The last salary revision was implemented in 1995 and the government further increased the basic salary by 10 per cent last year.

Dr Mahathir said the forthcoming revision represents an increase in income of 1.2 months a year.

He said: "This increase is possible given the higher government revenue as a result of economic growth and the government's prudent financial management.

"We hope this bonus payment and the salary increase together with the abolition of the limit on bonus payment by the private sector will

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contribute to increasing the purchasing power of the majority of the rakyat.

"I also hope that this will encourage us to double our efforts towards increasing productivity and thereby, contributing to growth of the economy."

-- BERNAMA

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