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PM: Government won't borrow to raise salaries

SEREMBAN, Fri. - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it would be meaningless for the Government to agree on pay rise for civil servants if it has to borrow money for the purpose.

"Of course we want their pay to be increased but if we have to take loans to do this, then the country will face a lot of problems."

Saying that the salary of Government servants in Malaysia was better and higher than their counterparts in other developing nations, Dr Mahathir said the people would be disappointed if the Government was not able to provide them with infrastructure due to debts.

Malaysia would be richer and the Government would be able to collect more taxes from private companies if the civil servants continued to work hard to improve quality and productivity.

Speaking at a dinner hosted by the State Government in conjunction with his one-day working visit to the State tonight, the Prime Minister added that efficiency and professionalism on the part of the civil servants would lead to improved productivity.

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