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SABAH TO SPEND BETWEEN RM40 AND RM50 FOR BONUS AND SALARY HIKE

KOTA KINABALU, Nov 1 (Bernama) -- The Sabah government is expected to spend between RM40 and RM50 million to pay bonus and salary hike for its 35,000 civil servants.

The payment of a half month bonus or a minimum of RM1,000 and a 10 per cent salary hike is in line with with the announcement made recently in the National Budget 2002 for federal civil servants.

Sabah State Finance Minister Datuk Musa Aman said this to reporters after tabling the state budget 2002 in the state legislative assembly here today.

Asked whether civil servants could expect payments before the Hari Raya Puasa in December, he said, "I can't say at the moment but we will announce when the state government is ready".

Earlier in tabling the budget, he said the windfall was in appreciation and recognition of efforts and contributions of state civil servants in implementing the government's programmes.

"Although the payments will be a burden, the state government hopes that the bonus and salary increment will encourage members of the civil service to double their efforts, increase productivity and contribute towards the economic growth of the state," he said.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced the half month bonus and salary increase on Oct 19 when tabling the national budget in the Dewan Rakyat.

-- BERNAMA

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