

Ministers also to sign 'I pledge'

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If all govt servants do it, so must we, says Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon: All cabinet ministers will be required to sign the pledge of good conduct for civil servants, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

This is to show the ministers' and deputy ministers' commitment to their duties for the country, and to improve the administrative service.

"It is time for the cabinet ministers to pledge to give proper service to the country. Only then do we become government people committed to our duties and the country," he said.

"I am confident this will im-

prove the performance of the public service. Please remember that our service is not only for ourselves and the salary, but it is for the customers and the people."

Mahathir, who is also the finance minister, said this when officiating at the ministry's Quality Day and Meet-the-Clients Day programme at the Jalan Duta government complex here.

Earlier, the ministry staff signed the loyalty pledge led by Treasury secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Samsudin Hitam.

Mahathir said he noticed a flaw during the signing of the "I pledge" letters when all govern-

ment servants, from the office boys to the secretary-general, signed, except for the ministers.

Asked by the press later whether the cabinet ministers are encouraged to sign, he said: "It will have to be compulsory, no question of encouraging."

He said since he has made the decision public today, he will announce it to the cabinet at the next meeting.

On the reason for the move, he said as everybody else is making a commitment to serve the government in a proper way, surely the top most people must also make the same commitment.