

Mahathir to announce NRS changes

PUTRAJAYA: The Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad will announce details of the revised New Remuneration System (NRS) this week.

The changes were discussed by the Cabinet last Wednesday, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman said.

"The revision is positive and will benefit the 800,000 civil servants in the country," Samsudin told reporters after the launch of Kembara Merdeka 2002 by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi here yesterday.

He was asked to comment on the progress of the changes being made to the NRS. He declined to give any detail on the changes.

Samsudin said Dr Mahathir and the Cabinet had reviewed the counter proposals made by the committee on the public sector employee's salaries.

Under the NRS matrix system implemented since 1992, only 5% of

the civil servants were eligible for vertical and diagonal pay rise (merit increments) every year and this had created dissatisfaction among them.

The Star reported in May that among the major changes would be the introduction of more promotion posts for the middle and lower-income category and the efficiency bar where civil servants would be required to take written or oral examinations to be eligible for upgrading.

Earlier, Abdullah flagged off 16

vehicles, which were headed for a 13-day tour around the country, organised to mark the month-long Merdeka celebrations.

The participants comprised 77 people from government departments, agencies, NGOs and media organisations.

The tour, themed "Jalur Gemilang Dekat di Mata Dekat di Hati", would travel south and head for the East Coast before ending at Dataran Kelab Sultan Sulaiman in Kampung Baru on Aug 8.