

PM: Just a few abuse punch card system

Nst 3 0 JUL 2002

PUTRAJAYA, Mon. — The majority of civil servants abide by Government regulations and there is only a handful of black sheep who abuse the punch card system, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

“There are bound to be black sheep in any organisation. The only thing we can do is to monitor,” he said on a special report in the *New Sunday Times* yesterday highlighting cases where civil servants went for long tea breaks after punching their cards in the morning.

The Prime Minister said this at a Press conference after announcing details of the Sistem Saraan Malaysia at his office.

Dr Mahathir said he introduced the punch card system (when he became the Prime Minister in 1981) because he noticed then that some civil servants left the office at 3pm, sometimes for a round of golf.

The NST report also highlighted cases where people travelled miles to meet Government officials only to be told they were on a tea break.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsudin Osman, who was also present, said the Public Service Department had discussed the issue with the Public Complaints Bureau today.

“We feel that there is no need for civil servants to take tea breaks.”