

I thought of doubling salaries: PM

KUALA LUMPUR: Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said he had at one point during the 1997-98 regional financial crisis toyed with the idea of doubling the salaries of government servants.

By doing so, the prime minister said, he hoped to raise the supply of currency to meet the devaluation of the ringgit.

"I feared that the depreciation would inflict tremendous hardship on ordinary folk. For example, for a devaluation of 50%, I would raise salary by 100%, so that the currency value, in terms of earnings, would have the same purchasing capacity," he said in an interview contained in a newly-launched book *Rewriting The Rules: The Malaysian Crisis Management Model*.

Excerpts of the book were made available to Bernama yesterday.

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