

# Mahathir

## grateful for an efficient civil service

KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad paid tribute to the country's one million civil servants, saying that the public administration was more efficient than that of many other developing countries.

This was proven by the fact that many of the country's administrators were invited overseas to give their views and train administrators of other countries, he said.

"I am happy that members of the public service act like a family because this is very important for the smooth running of the country's administration," he said at the Public Service Department annual dinner at the Palace of the Golden Horses here last night.

He said he was grateful that there had not been any incident where the public service employees had gone on strike.

Dr Mahathir stressed on the importance in picking the "right leader" for such an organisation because if a wrong leader were to be chosen, government policies would not be successfully implemented.

"In terms of money, the public service handles around RM30bil. If a leader were not efficient, the money would not be properly spent and if he were not trustworthy, it would not be utilised to bring benefit to the country and its citizens," he said.

Touching on the salary scheme, Dr Mahathir said it was not possible to satisfy everyone, and this resulted in some people accusing the Government of being unfair.

He said he hoped the Public Service Department (PSD) would find a way to correct the problem as much as possible.

Similarly, he said the choice of PSD scholarship recipients, which had also created some dissatisfaction, was not only based on scholastic results but also other factors like the person's character.