

28 JAN 2002

Mahathir-Pledge

MINISTERS ALSO HAVE TO SIGN PLEDGE OF GOOD CONDUCT, SAYS PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 28 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that ministers will also have to sign the letter of pledge of good conduct like all civil servants.

He said that they must surely do so because everybody else in the public sector was making a commitment to serve the government in a proper way.

Dr Mahathir said that he had yet to inform the cabinet of the decision and he would ask them to sign the letter of undertaking.

"Although I have made this decision public and have not yet told my cabinet colleagues, I will have the duty to persuade them that they must sign," he told reporters after launching the Finance Ministry's "Day With Clients" programme and Quality Day at the ministry's premises in Jalan Duta here.

Dr Mahathir said that the signing of the letter of undertaking was made compulsory as one of the ways to improve the administration.

Earlier in his speech, Dr Mahathir, who is Finance Minister, said that there was a deficiency in the process of the signing of the letter of pledge as it was only compulsory for civil servants from the secretaries-general and below to sign it whereas ministers were not required to do so.

"It is time, I feel, that ministers also sign the letter of pledge. As such, we will become members of the government truly committed to discharging our duties and to the nation," he said.

The prime minister was confident that in this way, the standard of the civil service would continue to improve and able to fully satisfy their clients and also themselves.

"We are all producers and consumers in this service sector. Just think what will happen to us if others fail to carry out their duties well.

"Remember that when we serve others, they will definitely be not satisfied if we are lacking in our services," he said.

As such, he said, only through the overall improvement of the standard of services could benefit be derived by all.

Dr Mahathir also said that it was crucial for staff of the Treasury to carry out their duties with full dedication and trustworthiness in revenue collection.

"This ministry is vital as it ensures that the government has adequate funds for the country," he said.

The prime minister said that there were now countries which were unable to pay the salaries of government servants.

He said that this could be due to the poor state of the economy of these countries but in others it could be due to their unsystematic revenue collection as well as civil servants being involved in corrupt practices to obtain extra income.

"Alhamdulillah, such things do not happen in Malaysia but in other countries. This happens because of the negligence of the revenue collectors...that is why the Treasury plays a very crucial role," he said.

He said that Malaysia was now the most developed of the developing countries and this could be seen through its capability in initiating various measures to determine the country's economic, political and social development.

"This is because its officers are responsible and discharge their

duties with utmost professionalism and refuse to allow their thinking and emotion to affect our services," he said.

The prime minister hoped that the Treasury's staff were not doing their work merely for the pay as they would then not perform well.

Instead, he said, they should look at job satisfaction and constantly strive to overcome their shortcomings.

"When we give our best, we will be satisfied even if the pay is not much because this is part of our commitment as government servants," he said.

-- BERNAMA

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