

29/01/2002

Ministers will have to sign letter of good conduct, too

Cheah Chor Sooi

KUALA LUMPUR, Mon. - Cabinet Ministers will be required to sign the letter of undertaking of good conduct as a pledge of commitment to their responsibilities and loyalty to the nation, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The Prime Minister said he would persuade them to sign the document.

"It's wrong for me to announce something in public which is not agreed upon by the Cabinet.

"As everybody else is making a commitment to serve the Government in a proper way, surely top-most people must also make the same commitment," he said after opening the Treasury's Quality Day celebration in Jalan Duta.

Earlier, Dr Mahathir spent more than an hour touring 17 exhibition booths set up by divisions, departments and agencies within the Treasury which took part in the 'One Day with Clients' programme.

All 950,000 civil servants must sign the letter of undertaking of good conduct by March 30 while those recruited after Jan 1 will have to do so within a month of their appointment.

Those who fail to do this are liable to face disciplinary action in accordance with the Public Officers (Conduct and Discipline) Regulations 1993.

In his speech to staff of the Treasury, Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, reiterated the need for the letter of undertaking of good conduct to build the commitment of civil servants towards an effective administrative machinery.

He also urged civil servants to curb the tendency of measuring the services they were offering in monetary terms.

"Although we expect our pay to increase in accordance with the size of our responsibilities, we should not always work for the sake of getting paid.

"We have to concentrate on job satisfaction and serving the people with true commitment.

"If we are happy to render our services although our income is not big, both we and our clients will feel satisfied."

Dr Mahathir also stressed the need for Treasury staff to improve their performance.

"We need to have efficient tax collectors in the Treasury as these people are responsible for the generation of revenue. There are countries which are unable to pay salaries of civil servants as they do not have a systematic tax collection system."

cscheah@nstp.com.my

(END)