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Budget-Bonus

ONE-MONTH BONUS FOR CIVIL SERVANTS

KUALA LUMPUR, Sept 20 (Bernama) -- The nearly one million civil servants in the country will receive a one-month bonus or a minimum of RM1,200 in appreciation of their contributions and sacrifices, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today.

The prime minister made the announcement when tabling the 2003 Budget at the Dewan Rakyat.

"I hope this will reduce the burden, especially of the lower income group, to meet expenses for the coming festivals as well as preparation for their children's schooling.

"To the public sector employees, including the armed forces and police, the nation is indebted for their contributions and sacrifices," he said.

Without their professionalism and efficient administration, the nation would not have benefitted from higher economic growth, he added.

In the last budget, the government gave a bonus of half-month salary or a minimum of RM1,000 and a 10 per cent salary hike to civil servants.

Dr Mahathir also conveyed the government's gratitude to all Malaysians who have continuously provided their undivided support and stood firmly behind the government through the good and bad times.

He said the private sector workers had worked relentlessly and had not resorted to industrial action even though their salaries were not commensurate with their demands and in some circumstances, they were retrenched.

-- BERNAMA

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