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BONUS LIKELY TO BE PAID IN THE MONTH OF RAMADHAN - DR JAMALUDIN

ROMPIN, Sept 28 (Bernama) -- The government will take into account the Hari Raya Aidilfitri and opening of the 2004 school term when deciding to pay the half-month bonus for civil servants, Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaludin Jargis said today.

"The government will decide the date for the bonus payment, most likely at year-end. God Willing, between the Ramadhan month and opening of the school term," he told reporters after closing a fishing competition organised by the Berita Harian newspaper.

He said the bonus is expected to be paid at the end of this year, taking into consideration the additional financial needs of Muslims for the Hari Raya Aidilfitri and opening of the 2004 school term.

Asked whether the half-month salary bonus would be paid in one lump sum or in instalments, Dr Jamaludin, who is also Member of Parliament for Rompin, said the government would decide after considering the two factors.

Prime Minister and Finance Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad announced half-month bonus for government employees when tabling the 2004 Budget in Parliament on Sept 12.

A total of 1,400 anglers are taking part in the fishing competition which was opened by Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Adnan Yaakob.

-- BERNAMA

MS TS