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Mahathir-Corruption

CORRUPTION REMAINS UNACCEPTABLE, SAYS MAHATHIR

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 6 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said today that corruption remains unacceptable in Malaysian society.

He said that corrupt practices still occur to a certain degree but corruption remains unacceptable by society.

"We have no corrupt administrators and government servants, and it is important that this culture remains with us," he said when speaking at the fourth Public Service premier assembly where he also opened the Management Technology Centre of the National Institute of Public Administration (Imatec) here.

Dr Mahathir said that this was important as the government continues to upgrade its administrative capability which would lead the country and its economy to do well, allowing the government to derive more revenue for development.

The prime minister also said that Malaysia was no longer perceived as a developing nation.

The international community, he said, had acknowledged that Malaysia was already a developed country.

The prime minister said that civil servants could enjoy pay increases if the country continues to prosper.

"We will increase the pay of civil servants but the government will do it sensibly," he said.

Dr Mahathir said that the government's ability to pay is important. "We will not give fat salaries just because there are demands or the cost of living is high."

The government, he said, did not wish to be indebted forever, borrowing money in order to survive to the extent that it gets into trouble paying back like other countries.

"If we pay more than we can afford, inflation will occur in the country...the purchasing power with salaries which are higher becomes lower due to the escalating prices of goods," he said.

As such, he said, the government had adopted a policy to control the prices of goods.

-- BERNAMA

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