

29 SEP 2003

Mahathir-Service

DR MAHATHIR WANTS TREASURY STAFF TO IMPROVE SERVICE

PUTRAJAYA, Sept 29 (Bernama) -- The Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, today urged Finance Ministry staff to improve their level of service to the people who want their rights and wishes to be met.

In view of this in the Budget for next year the government had stressed the importance of the delivery system so that the people's needs would be met, he said at the Finance Ministry's Quality Day here.

Treasury staff should be receptive to criticism and examine themselves whether their service to the people could be further improved, said Dr Mahathir who is also the Finance Minister.

"Hence we have to accept criticism particularly through the press which at times will be hurting and so we have to do some soul searching and see if we can improve the service we are rendering," he said.

Dr Mahathir said with the Treasury staff giving their best government revenue would increase.

He said Finance Ministry staff should realise that the service they rendered to the people would not only benefit them but also the government

Through the collection of more taxes the government would be able to develop the country, provide various facilities, pay bigger salaries and wages and ensure a better lifestyle for the people, he said.

Dr Mahathir said among Asean countries the rate of payments of salaries and wages was the second highest in Malaysia after Singapore.

"It is because we have been able to develop our country and many of our citizens had succeeded in business and pay tax to the government and it is this tax that the government spends to pay salaries and develop the country," the Prime Minister said.

Meanwhile when launching the Government Companies and Statutory Bodies Information System (GSIS), the Prime Minister said the Treasury needed a good financial management and monitoring system.

Dr Mahathir said all financial records should be made in a standard form, or using a special format so that it could help solve problems in the future.

He noted that the local port industry had good and proper reporting system about containers and so on.

The country, he said must have a good financial reporting system so that any type of malfunctioning or improper financial management could be avoided such as the recent fake cheque scam in Penang.

The GSIS would among other things enable the government to monitor the performance of Minister of Finance Incorporated companies.

It also acted as an "early warning system" to enable the government to take speedy action.

-- BERNAMA

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