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PM: Improve public services (HL)

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PUTRAJAYA, Mon. - Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad today told government servants, especially those in the Finance Ministry, to improve their services for the benefit of all.

The Prime Minister said if civil servants improved services, they could collect more taxes which the Government could use for development.

Dr Mahathir said they should be receptive to criticism and constantly examine themselves so that they could continuously improve their services and serve the people better.

"We have to accept criticism, particularly those carried in the Press, which at times will hurt us. But we have to do some soul searching and see if we can improve our service," he said at the Finance Ministry's Quality Day at the ministry's office.

Dr Mahathir, who is also Finance Minister, said if Finance Ministry employees gave their best, the Government's revenue would increase.

He said through increased collection of taxes, the Government would be able to develop the country, provide various facilities, pay higher salaries and ensure a better lifestyle for the people.

Dr Mahathir said among Asean countries, salaries received by Malaysians were the second highest after those in Singapore.

"It is because we have been able to develop our country. Many of our citizens have succeeded in business and paid tax so we can pay salaries and develop the country."

Later, when launching the Government Companies and Statutory Bodies Information System at the ministry's multi-purpose hall, Dr Mahathir said the ministry needed a good financial management and monitoring system.

He said all financial records should be kept in a standard form or follow a special format so that there would not be problems in the future.

The Prime Minister said there must be a good financial reporting system so that any type of discrepancy or improper financial management could be prevented such as the recent fake cheque scam in Penang.