

13/06/2003

Ministry to weigh all requests, input for Budget 2004

KOTA TINGGI, Thurs. - The Finance Ministry will consider all requests and input from various quarters in drawing up Budget 2004 which will be tabled in September.

Deputy minister Datuk Chan Kong Choy said feedback gathered from the prebudget dialogues with various parties would be examined.

"If they are beneficial, the Government will give due consideration. However, the ministry has to look into the financial aspect first.

"There are requests for more allocations from the people while companies are asking for higher tax rebates. It means we have to strike a balance to make everybody happy," he said after opening an insurance company, here today.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad chided State Governments for their tendency to demand huge fund allocations from the Federal Government. He also wanted State Governments to spend prudently.