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Shape up or ship out

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PRIME MINISTER Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's call to civil servants to put service quality and productivity before self is timely. It cannot be ignored any longer.

Demanding a pay rise instead of revisiting service quality, standards and productivity levels is akin to placing the cart before the horse. Civil servants must take stock of the fact that they are the pillars that support the country's engine of growth, namely the private sector.

As the Prime Minister, and even the Cuepacs president have said, we must not lose sight of the bigger picture. If civil servants improve productivity, the rewards will certainly come from the progressive nation that we shall be.

Our inspiration must come from the desire to leave a worthy legacy for the next generation, not how much we can make in our lifetime at the expense of others.

We have to produce results that count. As such, perhaps, the Government as the employer should consider adopting the private sector philosophy of