

Dr M casts doubts on PM's plans for civil service pay raise

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Former prime minister Dr Mahathir Mohamad said Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim's ambition to review civil service wages is difficult because of the government's rising debts.

"Apparently, (Putrajaya) wants to raise wages. How? There's no money.

"We pay debts annually in the billions. How can we raise salaries?" he asked during the Jelajah Bicara Bangsa event organised by Dewan Tindakan Ekonomi Islam, among others, in Sikamat, Negeri Sembilan yesterday.

Yesterday, Anwar said the government will finalise a plan to restructure the civil service salary scheme in "a week or two".

He said the proposal will be shared with the chief secretary to the government Mohd Zuki Ali and Public Service Department director-general Zulkapli Mohamad.

He said his administration decided to review the salary scheme because no

review has been conducted since 2013.

Meanwhile, Mahathir also cast doubts on Anwar's vision of increasing wages for Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) graduates and increasing wages for GLC interns.

"Businesses have a budget. They will not simply raise wages and incur a loss," said the former Langkawi MP.

Anwar said that TVET graduates are earning around RM1,800 to RM2,000 as a starting salary. A fairer salary, he said, was around RM2,500 and RM3,000.

Anwar also ordered all GLCs to pay interns a minimum of RM800 a month.

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