

# PM to decide on bonus

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Civil servants will know on Sept 7

**PUTRAJAYA:** The country's more than a million civil servants, who will be going home with a bigger pay packet this month, will know if they are getting any bonus when the Budget is tabled in September.

"As usual, the issue of bonus for civil servants is one to be considered by the Prime Minister, who is also First Finance Minister.

"It will be an item to be decided in the Budget, which goes to Parliament on Sept 7," said Second Finance Minister Tan Sri Nor Mohamed Yakcop.

The Government had been paying out yearly bonuses to civil servants in recent years.

Nor Mohamed played it cool when reporters cornered him on this issue, after he gave out excellence service awards to the staff of the Finance Ministry here yesterday.

He was also tight-lipped on any goodies that would be presented to the corporate sector, saying that the Government was interested in promoting a business-friendly environment.

He added that this year's Budget was crucial as it comes mid-way into the implementation of the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"We have to ensure that some of the goals identified under the plan, such as eradicating hardcore poverty, providing affordable housing and efficient public transport are achieved."

Nor Mohamed said the Budget would consider the difficulties faced by self-employed people to buy homes because they do not have salary slips.

»Foreign investors are happy with the macroeconomic picture of the country«

TAN SRI NOR MOHAMED YAKCOP

On the planned legislation to regulate the services offered by credit information agencies, he said the ministry hoped to table this in Parliament by December or within the first quarter of next year.

"In the meantime, a circular has been issued to all government agencies and departments to stop using CTOS' services," he said.

Nor Mohamed refuted talk that "hot money" (short-term funds) was flowing into Malaysia due to expectations that the country would further liberalise the ringgit.

"All investments are long-term, based on the economic fundamentals of our country, particularly when there are developments announced for the northern and southern regions.

"Foreign investors are happy with the macroeconomic picture of the country."