

PM: Don't moonlight

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Civil servants advised to budget and spend money wisely

PUTRAJAYA: Government servants should stop moonlighting as this would affect their productivity at work the next morning.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said although he would prefer them not to take up second jobs given the recent salary increase, if they had to continue moonlighting, they should at least refrain from working too late into the night.

"The pay rise saw a higher percentage of increase for the lower-paid staff who I understand take up second jobs to make an honest living, such as selling *nasi lemak* and traditional cakes.

"I respect them for working extra hard to provide a better life for their

»If they work late at night, their productivity the next day may be affected«

DATUK SERI ABDULLAH AHMAD BADAWI

family, but if they work late at night, their productivity the next day may be affected," he said when addressing staff of the Prime Minister's

Department at a monthly gathering here yesterday.

Abdullah also advised them to budget and spend their money wisely, and not on unnecessary things.

He asked them to help upgrade the public delivery system as some people had questioned the need for a pay increase when the public delivery system was still not up to expectations.

"The feedback also showed that the salary increase was important to ensure the lower income group is not pressured to take bribes," he said.

Abdullah also called on the Economic Planning Unit, Malaysian Administrative Modernisation and Management Planning Unit and Implementation and Coordination

Unit to provide information on the additional workers needed when implementing the upgrading of the public delivery system at the local government level in 10 days.

He advised staff members to inform the relevant maintenance departments of any problems to buildings and equipment, to ensure speedy repairs.

Abdullah also hoped that prices of goods would not increase because of the pay rise.

Traders, he said, should be contented with recording higher sales with the increase in purchasing power of public servants, instead of increasing prices, while manufacturers could increase production when demand rose.