

# PM: Govt has to be realistic on pay rise

The Sun - 11/1/2007

**PUTRAJAYA:** The government has to be realistic in giving the 1.2 million civil servants a pay rise, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said yesterday.

He said affordability, the performance of civil servants, productivity and rewards were the main factors the government had to consider.

"We have to be realistic. National affordability will be an important factor to take into account and, at the same time, we speak about performance and productivity besides rewards," Bernama quoted him as saying.

Abdullah was speaking to reporters after chairing a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Personnel and Salary for the Public Sector here.

No decision was made at the meeting on the salary revision, he said.

On Monday, Abdullah announced that the civil servants would get a pay rise because they deserved it.

Cuepacs has asked for a salary revision of between 10% and 40% depending on grades as

the last review was made in 1992.

It proposed a 40% increase for Support Group II (Grades 1 to 16), the lowest income group in the public service, 30% for Support Group I (Grades 17 to 40), 20% for the Management and Professional Group (Grade 41 to 54), and 10% for Superscale officers (Jusa).

"Whatever it is, to be realistic is the most important as far as we are concerned," Abdullah said.

Asked whether a decision on the salary rise formula would be made in time for the civil servants' gathering in Putrajaya on May 21, he said: "It depends."

He said there would be further discussions on the matter.

To another question, Abdullah said the government would act against contractors who breach their contract by delivering shoddy and sub-standard work in maintaining government buildings.

He was asked to comment on Works Minister Datuk Seri S. Samy Vellu's statement that action should be taken following a series of incidents involving government buildings.

**R. Manirajan** reports: The cabinet did not discuss a salary review for the prime minister, deputy prime minister and other ministers.

"It was never at all discussed," Abdullah said after opening the 4th Malaysian International Halal Showcase.

He was asked if the announcement by the government to review and increase the civil servants' salaries included that for the prime minister, deputy prime minister and other ministers.