Minimum bonus of RM1,200

TAKing a proactive stance in its commitment to "re-engineer" the work culture and ethics in the civil service, the Government will offer one month's salary or a minimum payment of RM1,200 as bonus to its 950,000 employees.

The bonus, which would be equivalent to two months' salary for some support group staff (non-executive), was seen as a form of encouragement to revitalise the general psyche of the civil service.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said it was necessary for civil servants to undergo a work culture "overhaul" of sorts to become active players in the implementation of business-oriented government policies and strategies.

He wants the civil service to reduce bureaucracy and review all regulations and procedures to expedite dealings with the public.

This will facilitate businessmen in their dealings with the government and reduce the cost of doing business, thereby enhancing the nation's competitiveness.

All civil servants will be reoriented and inculcated with excellent work culture, which emphasised efficiency, discipline, trustworthiness and commitment.

Also proposed for the simplification of the current customs procedures pertaining to the import and export of goods are:

- EXEMPTING the movement of taxable goods between free zones or for export from bank guarantee;
- UTILISING only one single form when moving taxable goods;
- GOODS already inspected by one agencies to be spared from further examination by the Customs to save time and cost; and
- THE introduction of special stickers or codes to be affixed on each packet of cigarettes to indicate that duty has been paid to curb smuggling.

The sticker will also be used on other items such as liquor and medicines to indicate that taxes have been paid as well as to protect consumers from buying counterfeit goods.

In addition to the RM300mil allocated for the implementation of the Malaysian Remuneration System (MRS) which will be implemented on Nov 1, the new budget also make provisions for civil servants in the support group, who are 40 years and above to undergo medical examinations from time to time. In the past, this privilege was only extended to those in the management and professional categories.