

PM: Govt will be fair

Civil servants 'will be rewarded at the appropriate time'

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KUALA LUMPUR: Civil servants will be rewarded with allowances, bonuses and salary hikes from time to time whenever it is deemed appropriate, said Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

The Prime Minister said the Government was sensitive to the problems of the civil servants and had always made adjustments whenever it saw the need.

"I think we have been fair to the civil service and will continue to be fair to all of you," he said in his speech at the Cuepacs 24th triennial convention yesterday.

Earlier, Cuepacs president Omar Osman made a final appeal for a RM2,000 honorarium each for 1.2 million civil servants.

Omar also asked for the Efficiency Level Assessment (PTK) to be revamped and for the retirement age for civil servants be raised from the present 56 years to 58 or 60.

Abdullah said the Cuepacs president should discuss these with the Chief Secretary to the Government before raising it with the Prime Minister.

He also urged civil servants to serve the public with greater efficiency and less bureaucracy.

He said that the civil service had come a long way in the last few years when investors and the private sector had complained about civil service inefficiency.

"The public too was always grum-

bling. There was a lot of civil service bashing.

"It is not just civil servants who were pained by these remarks but I, too, was hurt to hear them," he said.

Since then, procedures had been simplified and efficiency improved and he believed that the private sector was happy with the present smoother, faster public

delivery system.

Abdullah said that he wanted Malaysia's public sector to be on par with that of the developed countries.

"Then investors and businessmen will not hesitate to invest and do business here in the future. And our country will continue to prosper," he said.

Later, Abdullah launched *Malaysia: 50 Years of Diplomacy 1957 -*



Something to remember: Abdullah receiving a souvenir – a model of a rocket – from Omar during the launching of Cuepacs' 24th triennial convention in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Partially hidden is Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Ismail Adam.

2007, a book on Malaysian's foreign policy and diplomacy written by Dr Chandra Jeshurun.

Abdullah said the book was a proud record of Malaysia's achievements in international relations and would serve as a reminder of what the country had done and how it had done it.

It also noted the occasions when things went wrong, he said.