

PM: Progress due to efficient civil service

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KANGAR: The country's progress and its good administration system, which have earned worldwide recognition, have been mainly due to a committed and efficient civil service.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday although political leaders were instrumental in bringing about the country's development, an efficient civil service

had helped the nation achieve progress.

"We have improved the civil service system to enviable standards after inheriting it from our colonial masters," he said when opening the RM41.5mil eight-storey Federal Building, home to 21 federal departments and agencies, here.

Dr Mahathir said many developing countries were impressed with Malaysia's efficient civil service and had sent their representatives here to

study the system.

The election of former Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Ahmad Sarji as president of the Commonwealth Administrators Association had shown that the international community acknowledged the excellence of Malaysia's administrative system.

The Prime Minister added that the federal administrative system had helped in the equitable distribution of wealth among the 13 states.

"With this system, the Federal Government was able to help Perlis, which always had a deficit budget and depended on federal allocations," he added.

Dr Mahathir said some rich states were unhappy to see their revenue being distributed to the poor ones.

"But we reminded them that they prosper because they had also benefited from the country's vast resources," he added.

In his speech, Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim

said the Federal Government had been helping Perlis although the state's deficits since 1995 totalled over RM108mil.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali said grouping the various government departments in the new building had helped the Government to save RM1.5mil in annual rentals.

He said the Government incurred RM19mil in monthly rentals for government department offices nationwide.