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`Civil servants' performance not affected by cuts'

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KOTA BARU, Sat. - Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali today said the cut in civil servants' allowance has not adversely affected their performance.

He said civil servants understood the economic problems facing the nation and were willing to assist the Government in overcoming them.

Abdul Halim, who is on a three-day visit to Kelantan, attended a briefing on Kelantan's development by State Federal Development director Datuk Azman Abdul Rashid.

Asked on the progress of the management integrity committee which all government departments and agencies had been instructed to set up, he said they had held their first meetings.

"Though we have yet to receive the reports of the meeting from the respective committees, all the departments and agencies have complied with the directive.

"At federal level, all departments have reported that their respective management integrity committees have held their first meeting," he added.

On Jan 23, Abdul Halim had directed all 48 departments and agencies under the Prime Minister's Department to set up the committee by Feb 7.

The committees, aimed at fighting corruption in the public services, are required to hold meetings every three months and each committee must submit a report to a higher-level committee.

Earlier, on Jan 8, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad issued a directive to Menteri Besar, Chief Ministers, Ministry secretary-generals, service chiefs, State Secretaries and heads of government departments and agencies to set up integrity committees to combat corruption and abuse among government servants.

The committees will come under the Cabinet Committee on Integrity in Government Management chaired by Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim.

The committees, apart from overcoming weaknesses in the Government's financial management and public administration, will also seek ways to curb corruption, abuse of power and irregularities in the public service.

Responding to Cuepacs claim that the New Remuneration Scheme was unfair, Abdul Halim said there was a move to review the matrix system of appraisal under the scheme.

"This evaluation system is good, but if there are any weaknesses in the implementation as claimed by Cuepacs, we will rectify them," he added.

Cupecas, the umbrella organisation representing civil servants unions, has objected to the matrix system of appraisal under the NRS since it was introduced on Jan 1, 1992.

Cuepacs claimed that NRS was unfair and did not motivate public servants.

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