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RM19m in rent a year on office space

KANGAR, Fri. - The Federal Government is paying RM19 million in annual rentals for 739,000 square metres of space used as offices throughout the country, Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali said today.

"Thus the Federal Government has decided to put up its own office buildings in identified States and districts, particularly those commanding high rentals," he said.

Abdul Halim was speaking at the opening by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad of the RM41.5 million Federal Building in Jalan Jubli Emas.

The nine-storey building on a one-hectare compound was built four years ago and refurbished last year. Comprising 20,000 square metre floor space, it houses 21 Federal Government departments with 430 employees.

Abdul Halim said placing these departments under the same roof has saved the Federal authorities RM1.5 million in annual rentals.

Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Shahidan Kassim said the building was originally developed by the State Economic Development Corporation as its head office. It was later sold to the Federal Government to help centralise all Federal departments and agencies.

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