

20/07/1998

Intan study on one-stop centres to cut red tape

PETALING JAYA, Sun. - The National Institute of Public Administration (Intan) is conducting a feasibility study to establish one-stop centres at Government offices in a bid to cut red tape, Finance Ministry parliamentary secretary Datuk Dr Shafie Mohd Salleh said today.

Shafie said routine procedures could not be used during the present economic times when crisis management methods were needed.

"Intan is looking into how crisis management can be improved and with that we will reduce red tape. For example, if land conversion applications previously took three to four months, with some even taking one or two years, we will shorten the period with a one-stop agency.

"If views are required on the matter from various departments and district offices, we will get them to speed up," he told reporters after launching the Poverty Eradication Foundation's Professional Fastrack Programme 1998 at the Tabung Haji Complex in Kelana Jaya.

He said this would also expedite exports to earn foreign exchange.

Shafie said Intan was in the midst of conducting the study after which it would be discussed by the Cabinet before being implemented.

It was reported yesterday that Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad had directed all Ministries and State Governments to cut red tape in approving projects which could boost economic growth.

Rural Development Minister Datuk Annuar Musa and Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Dr Ting Chew Peh had said at separate Press briefings yesterday that the directive was issued at yesterday's meeting of Menteri Besar and Chief Ministers and at Wednesday's Cabinet meeting.

On July 4, Dr Mahathir had said the civil service must be revamped to reduce bureaucracy.

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