

24/11/1998

Some PM's Dept units to move to Putrajaya next Feb

SEVERAL divisions in the Prime Minister's Department will be moving to the new administrative centre, Putrajaya by February next year. This will be followed by the the Prime Minister's office two months later, Deputy Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman says.

Coordinating the schedule and the move of the Prime Minister's Department will be senior deputy secretary general Datuk Abdullah Kintom, according to Fauzi.

"The physical infrastructure of the new administrative centre is ready and we have conducted several checks on the area. Several divisions will move in first before the PM's office," Fauzi said after opening a seminar on managing change in the era of electronic government, in Bukit Kiara yesterday.

Construction of the site in Sepang began in November 1996 and is due to be completed by 2000. Comprising of two parcels, the first parcel of Putrajaya, with a built-up area of 750,000 sq ft will contain the offices of the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister and Chief Secretary to the Government.

The second parcel with a built-up area of 1.5 million sq ft will house the Economic Planning Unit and other offices in the Prime Minister's Department.

Fauzi said the Government hopes to maintain its current level of staffing, currently at 820,000 people, with the use of electronic government (EG) technology in the electronic Government. The civil servants grouping, he said, is growing at 4 per cent per annum.

The implementation of the EG, he said, is to improve government processes to provide high quality, low cost administrative services using information technology and multimedia applications.

"EG will redefine relationship and provide improved connectivity and communications between the Government and its citizens, the Government and businesses as well as among all the components of the Government. It will open the possibility of greater access to more convenient, more responsive, more transparent and more reliable services at a lower cost," he said.

Under the new model of service delivery, the Government becomes the service supplier responsible for creating services for citizens and ensuring its quality and integrity.

Earlier, Fauzi opened the seminar which was intended to train trainers on managing changes in the EG. The seminar, which was attended by 160 senior government officials, also allowed the participants to discuss and exchange views on management issues in the public sector.

Malaysian Administrative and Modernisation Planning Unit (Mampu) director general Datuk Muhammad Rais Abdul Karim said the EG era is expected to bring a profound change in the work culture processes across all levels of government.

"The critical success factors that have been identified from the planning and implementation stages of the EG flagship is on leadership, effective mechanisms which defined roles and responsibility to plan, implement and monitor these changes in EG and a flexible organisation," he said.

Rais was presenting his paper on "Managing change in the era of Electronic Government: the public sector perspective".

In the areas of leadership, Rais pointed out that the involvement of the top leaders - Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad and Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Abdul Halim Ali - sets the tone for all levels of leaders in the public sector to strive towards EG.

"In this respect, a programme of disseminating information on EG has been instituted whereby various documents such as the EG Vision, Blueprint and Standards and Policy have been produced and distributed to all levels of the Government," Rais said.

With the rapid change expected in the EG, central planning for coordination as well as major business processes will be needed to re-engineer, and new applications developed to provide quality, effectiveness, efficiency and expeditious service.

Various mechanisms such the MSC Implementation Council provide directions while the EG Steering Committee is responsible for planning, coordination and monitoring work.

Within these implementing agencies, there are the Project Steering Committees, EG Task Forces and Work Teams to facilitate the implementation of the EG projects. The appointment of project directors/chief information officers will also facilitate the day-to-day leadership.

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