

# Civil servants to sign 'I Pledge'

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Completed draft waiting to be distributed, says Samsuddin

**PUTRAJAYA, Wed:** The good conduct pledge to ensure civil servants abide by the General Orders will take effect with the signing of the document by secretaries-general of ministries on Jan 29.

After that, all heads of departments and civil servants will sign the "I Pledge" (*Aku Janji*) which contains basic matters, including the importance of civil servants discharging their duties with full responsibility.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Samsuddin Osman said today: "I have seen the completed draft which is waiting to be distributed and signed. All government servants will have to sign it."

He was speaking to reporters after attending the Hari Raya open house of the Prime Minister's Department here.

Samsuddin said the contents of the pledge were not new as everything was in the General Orders, covering the conduct and discipline of civil servants, and in the Civil Servant's Conduct and Disciplinary Regulations.

"However, we seldom find the opportunity to read these regulations. So the 'I pledge' forms will stress the important points which must be observed by the civil servants, such as to serve with full responsi-

bility," he said.

"If I ask who have read the procedures on conduct and discipline, nobody would have read it . . . except if disciplinary action has been taken against someone, then he would read it.

"But when we put these basic things (in the good

conduct pledge), God willing, everyone will understand their respective duties and responsibilities."

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad was reported to have said in October the cabinet had decided to make it compulsory for civil ser-

vants to sign the pledge as some government employees do not adhere to the General Orders.

Cuepacs, the umbrella body for public sector unions, had agreed to accept the implementation of the pledge.

Initially, the pledge was

proposed to ensure university lecturers and undergraduates perform their duties and responsibilities and not get involved in anti-government activities.

Mahathir was reported to have said that school teachers should also be made to sign the pledge.