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`Leadership change won't affect civil service'

PENANG, Sat. - The civil service in the country will not be affected by any transition in the national leadership, Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Shamsudin Osman, said today.

This is because civil servants were always expected to continue with their daily tasks according to the normal procedures, he said.

"The philosophy of the civil service is based on continuity of service and allegiance to the Government, so any change in leadership will not affect the civil service," he said when asked about the transition of leadership from Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad to Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi next year.

Although civil servants were expected to take cognisance of current changes and affairs, Shamsudin said they must be sensitive to public expectations.

Speaking after opening the Civil Servants Cultural and Sports Council clubhouse, Rumah Maksak, he said the philosophy of civil service was contained in their pledge of loyalty to the Government of the day.

"In discharging their duties, civil servants must always ensure quality service and meet the needs and expectations of the public."