

Apply 9MP principles in civil service, says Najib

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PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants should absorb the fundamental principles of the Ninth Malaysia Plan into their working lives.

They should take ownership of the 9MP and make its implementation a part of their mission in public service.

Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said yesterday that civil servants should read the 9MP and not feel it was tabled only for use in Parliament.

"Don't think that only the Economic Planning Unit should be concerned about it. Don't leave the book on the shelf in the office or at

home and not read it," he told staff of the Prime Minister's Department at their monthly assembly.

Najib said civil servants should, at the very least, understand the five principal thrusts of the 9MP. They are:

- Adding value to the economy;
- Having a first-class mentality;
- Equity in economic growth and distribution of wealth;
- Improving the quality of life; and,
- Strengthening institutions and the public delivery system.

He said civil servants should see how they could implement these thrusts in their positions.

"We don't need to look at another department, just look at our

own and see whether we have a first-class mentality and maintenance culture ... the state of the toilets will tell you."

Civil servants could also take the cue from entrepreneurs who became successful by making and selling simple things like *keropok*, because they knew how to add value to their products.

"If you keep selling *keropok* at the roadside, you are not going to be very successful. You have to find ways to add value to your products."

Najib said implementing the 9MP was the responsibility of all civil servants and that they should perform their tasks efficiently to improve the quality of life.

Civil servants were also reminded to "facilitate, not frustrate" the public.

Najib said government procedures could always be shortened if officers executed their tasks efficiently.

There should be ongoing efforts to improve the public delivery system, such as shortening application processing times, he said.

"If we can shorten a process from six months to three months, then we should try to shorten it further to a month."

"I am confident that if the public and investors see us as facilitators, our role as civil service administrators will be more effective and meaningful."