

Abdullah: Fill the vacancies

The Star - 3/6/2006

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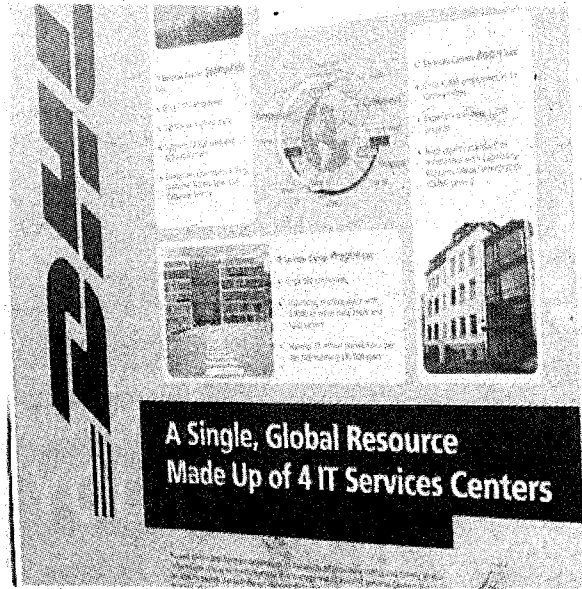
CYBERJAYA: The Public Service Department and the Public Service Commission have been directed to fill up vacant posts in the civil service.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said he gave the departments the directive during a committee meeting to monitor the implementation of projects lined up under the Ninth Malaysia Plan.

"The number of vacant posts in the civil service has now reached into the thousands," he told reporters after launching the new wing for DHL IT services centre here yesterday.

"At the same time, there is also a high number of unemployed graduates in the country.

"The directive is for the PSD and the commission to act fast to fill in all the vacant posts. This will be good as it will mean more workforce for us to ensure successful implementa-



VIP VISITOR: DHL IT services managing director Stephen McGuckin (left) and the centre's director Lee Chuan Yew (right) accompanying Abdullah on a tour of the new wing after he launched the facility in Cyberjaya yesterday.

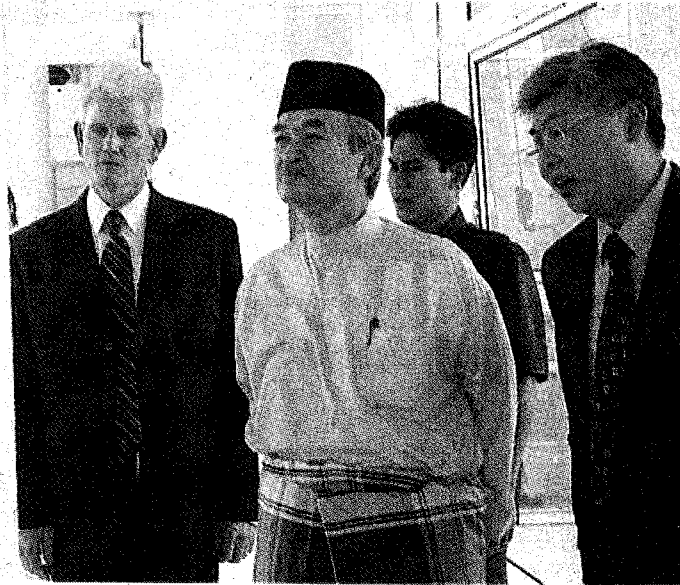
tion of the projects.

"In addition, this will help to enhance our capacity to monitor and know the progress of each project."

A recent report said the num-

ber of unemployed graduates had almost doubled from 45,000 in 2000 to 85,000 last year.

According to a survey, some 32% of graduates had yet to



secure jobs after completing their studies last year.

Abdullah said vacancies were available for both the management and support services.

"It will be up to the PSD to

decide if it should fill the vacancies in all departments or only in critical areas. It's up to them to discuss with the relevant agencies," he said.

Abdullah said the Govern-

ment also wanted to know the actual number of unemployed graduates.

"There are also thousands of vacancies in the civil service. By roping in these graduates, we can at least reduce or share the burden of work among our staff," he added.

"If the posts call for specific skills, training can be given to these graduates."

Abdullah said he had also told the Implementation and Co-ordination Unit (ICU) under the Prime Minister's Department that all reports must now contain details relating to the social or economic impact of a project.

"A report should not merely say such and such a project has been carried out with a certain sum of money being used. This is not good enough for us," he said.

"It's only when we put in all the social impact details that we can know what's happening, and whether the project has benefited the people or not."