

'Govt depts must stop ads thanking VIPs'

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PUTRAJAYA: Ministries and government departments have been told to stop placing advertisements in newspapers thanking VIPs and dignitaries for attending or launching their events.

A circular from the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan, said the practice of placing such advertisements should stop, as the money could be better used for more beneficial purposes.

The circular was dated June 7 and posted on the website of the Office of the Prime Minister (www.pmo.gov.my) yesterday, under a link to circulars issued by the chief secretary to the government.



Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan wants advertisements of appreciation to be stopped

It was addressed to all ministry secretaries-general, federal-level heads of department, state government secretaries and heads of statutory bodies.

In it, Sidek said: "It has been observed that ministries and departments of late have been placing advertisements in newspapers to appreciate and thank dignitaries and VIPs who have attended or officiated at ministerial or departmental functions.

"To do so, ministries and departments will probably have to spend a large amount to place such advertisements. It is more appropriate that such an allocation be used to implement ministerial and departmental programmes which are beneficial to the public.

"Therefore, this practice of placing advertisements of thanks and appreciation should be stopped."