

PSD to crack down on 'missing' civil servants

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■ **By Farrah Naz Karim**
news@nst.com.my

PUTRAJAYA: They skip work for days, causing hardship and inconvenience to many, including their colleagues and the public.

These civil servants who go absent without leave (AWOL) are usually busy with their side businesses, dealing with personal problems or simply unable to work because they are high on drugs.

The Public Service Department has vowed to put a stop to the shenanigans.

Unlike before, when they

were sent reminders and notices, the PSD will now publish their names, positions and addresses in newspapers.

Failure to respond within seven days will result in automatic dismissal and a loss of pension.

Those who return to work after going AWOL will face disciplinary action, including demotion, a pay cut or face a future without promotion.

PSD communications head Hasniah Abdul Rashid said under the Appointment, Promotion and Service Regulations 2005, civil servants who were absent without permis-

sion or without any reasonable cause, would be sent a letter of reminder or have their details published in the media (in at least one daily newspaper published in the national language with national circulation).

She said going AWOL topped the list of offences committed by civil servants.

"There are such cases almost daily. This mostly happens because they are quietly doing side businesses, facing personal problems or are on drugs," Hasniah said.

The NST had received a call from the Implementation and

Co-ordination Unit in the Prime Minister's Department inquiring about the procedure for publishing the names of civil servants who went AWOL.

Hasniah said that it was the responsibility of the heads of department to report these errant civil servants.

"If the (AWOL) officer reports for duty within seven days from the date of publication, his head of department must report the matter to the appropriate disciplinary authority and institute disciplinary proceedings against the officer.