

New staff for a better Parliament

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Move will boost its delivery system

SHAH ALAM: The Parliament administration will get new staff to help improve its delivery system, Dewan Rakyat Speaker Tan Sri Ramli Ngah Talib said.

He added that the administrative affairs, management and finance departments would receive one officer each, while the Dewan Rakyat and Dewan Negara would also see an additional officer each to oversee the running of the Parliamentary meetings.

Four new research officers will also be roped in to help the Members of Parliament (MPs) enhance the quality of their debates, he added.

"The new staff is part of our aim to ensure the smooth running of Parliamentary sessions and daily business, while we hope to see even better content of debates by the MPs with new research officers to help them," he told reporters after launching the Parliament family day gathering here yesterday.

Among those who attended the function were Dewan Rakyat deputy speakers Datuk Lim Si Cheng and Datuk Dr Yusof Yacob.

Ramli said Seri Paduka Baginda Yang di-Pertuan Agong Al-Wathiqu Billah Tuanku Mizan Zainal Abidin Ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Mahmud Al-

Muktafi Billah Shah would present his Royal Address to both the Dewan Negara and Dewan Rakyat on March 19, when Parliament opens for the first meeting of the fourth session.

He said the MPs would debate the Motion of Thanks on the Royal Address for eight days until April 2, after which four days would be allo-

cated for the ministries to give their replies.

Ramli added that the Budget speech would be presented on Sept 7, while both Houses will take a break for 30 days from Sept 13 for the fasting month and Hari Raya.

He also said that about 10 new bills would be debated in this year's

session.

On another matter, Ramli said that he knew of talk about the general election but said that he would concentrate fully on his job to administer the House properly.

"Only the Executive can announce the elections after getting the King's assent," he added.