

Show your gratitude, Sidek tells civil service

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PUTRAJAYA: We've got our pay rise, now let's deliver the goods.

This was the message the Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Mohamed Sidek Hassan, had for the 1,002,040 civil servants.

Sidek said civil servants were expected to translate their gratitude for the pay hike by improving productivity and work quality.

"There must be an improvement in the delivery system."

To lead off the move to improve services, Sidek gave his email address and urged the public to send him feedback on the performance of the civil service.

He can be contacted at sidek@pmo.gov.my

Sidek said even before the pay increase was announced, civil servants had been taking measures to buck up.

This, he said, included the 14-day deadline for payments to be made by government agencies and ministries.

"In the Prime Minister's Department, for instance, more than 90 per cent of payments are made under seven days. I challenge anyone to say that is lousy.

"If anyone slips past the 14 days,

even for one day for, say, even a bill valued at RM39, they will get it from me."

Sidek called on the public to play a role in ensuring that everyone gained from the pay hike.

As an example, he cited the price monitoring task of the Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs Ministry's enforcement officers.

He said that without public information and support, it would be tough.

Sidek said he agreed with yesterday's column by New Straits Times group editor Datuk Syed Nadzri Syed Harun that consumers should play a role in keeping prices down.

On the pay hike, Sidek said that apart from motivating the civil servants, it was aimed at preventing a brain drain and attracting good candidates to the civil service.

Asked if he would direct civil servants who moonlight to quit and focus on their responsibility to the civil service, Sidek said Cuepacs president Omar Osman had said so.

"He (Omar) mentioned it before and again after the pay revision announcement, so now he has to go around and rally them to work harder.

"The good feeling is already there and the notion (given by civil servants) is that 'we will do this'."

He said the 557,033 government pensioners, including those who had served with the Royal Malaysian Police and the Armed Forces, would get a pension hike whose quantum would be similar to the pay increase for serving civil servants.

Sidek also had some advice for civil servants who will begin getting their higher pay in July: "In life, it is not how much you earn but how much you save.

"Use it wisely. If before you could live with about RM1,000, now with the extra money, you should be able to save more."

Also present was Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri

Ismail Adam, who made it clear that the pay rise for civil servants in the states would be similar to that at federal level.

Yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi announced that civil servants in the Support Group II would receive a 35 per cent hike in their salary, Support Group I (25 per cent), Management and Professional Group (15 per cent) and Premier Grade (7.5 per cent).

Abdullah also said that police and armed forces personnel would enjoy a pay rise, with the Support Group II getting 42 per cent, Support Group I (30 per cent) and Management and Professional Group (18 per cent).