

THE STAR

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Civil servants told to cut down wastage

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PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants have been told to practise better management of office resources while maintaining efficiency and productivity levels.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said while it was necessary for civil servants to use energy and water efficiently in the office in the wake of rising costs. He added that such prudent measures should not affect their work performance.

"I am advising civil servants to be more careful. For instance, if there are fewer people, switch on the air-conditioning system at the necessary areas only.

"We must avoid wastage but maintain good efficiency levels by implementing best practices," he told staff of the Prime Minister's Department at their monthly gathering yesterday.

Abdullah suggested that the quality control circle - a programme introduced some years ago to increase efficiency and productivity - be revived at government offices to ensure prudent use of resources.

He also urged civil servants to forward ideas on how to tackle the issue of high subsidies, adding it would be a problem for the Government if operating costs continued to escalate.

"We already have some ideas, but I would also like to hear from civil servants," he said, adding the suggestions could be channelled to the heads of department, who would forward it to Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan.