

**Holistic Review For SBPA, Says Najib
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PARIT BUNTAR, Jan 14 (Bernama) -- The Public Service New Remuneration Scheme (SBPA) will be reviewed in a holistic manner, taking into account the views of those dissatisfied with it, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said.

"Let's not pre-empt. Decision will be made after looking into the scheme in its totality and listening to the views of those who are dissatisfied with it, if indeed there are.

"(We'll look into) whether the amount of (salary) increment or the parity between certain groups is too small," he told reporters after declaring open the National Farmers, Breeders and Fishermen's Day, here today.

Najib announced a review of the SBPA on Thursday to resolve the issues raised by certain quarters pertaining to its implementation.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan was reported as saying yesterday that a task force would be set up to carry out the review.

The task force, to be chaired by former Director-General of Public Service Tan Sri Ismail Adam, will have two months up to April 16 to study the issues and submit proposals to the government.

Some 600,000 civil servants have opted for the SBPA, according to Cuepacs. There are 1.4 million civil servants in the country.

The Public Service Department had agreed earlier to extend to Jan 15 the date for civil servants to opt for the SBPA, but retained the Dec 30 date for stating the option to extend the retirement age to 60.

Civil servants had been given 15 days from Dec 16 to exercise the option to sign up for the SBPA or remain in the old scheme.

In the new scheme, the civil service hierarchy has four levels, namely the Premier Group, the Top Management Group, the Management and Professional Group, as well as the Implementation Group.

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