

**Sarawak Civil Servants Enjoy Same Benefits As Federal Counterparts**  
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KUCHING, Oct 8 (Bernama) -- Civil servants serving state government departments and agencies will enjoy the same benefits as their federal counterparts, which include extension of retirement age, salary increase and bonus.

Second Resources Planning and Environment Minister Datuk Amar Awang Tengah Ali Hassan said, however, such benefits would only be given to employees of government-linked companies (GLC), depending on their financial ability and regulations.

"This is a decision by the federal government which is usually followed by the state government," he told reporters after launching Bakers Talk, a cake and bread shop at the Giant Hypermarket in Tabuan Jaya here today.

There are currently 16,665 civil servants with various government departments and agencies in the state.

Awang Tengah, who is also state industrial development minister, said retirement and pension-related matters were under the jurisdiction of the federal government, even for civil servants serving in states.

He said retirees and future retirees were included in all existing pension policy changes, including the extension of retirement age from 58 to 60, as well as the two per cent annual pension increase, as of 2013.

When tabling the 2012 Budget yesterday, Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak announced the introduction of the New Civil Service Remuneration Scheme (SBPA) for federal civil servants, with an annual salary increment of between RM80 and RM320, depending on grade, beginning next year.

Najib, who is also finance minister, announced a half-month salary bonus with a minimum payment of RM500 to civil servants and RM500 aid for 618,000 government retirees to be paid in the December salary.

Awang Tengah lauded the 2012 Budget which provided a high allocation for rural development in achieving the state government's target of channeling clean water and electricity to 90 per cent of rural residents in Sarawak.

The federal government will also allocate RM5 billion for a more comprehensive development of basic infrastructure in rural areas.

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