

'Don't worry' about pay hike, Najib tells civil servants
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 20 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak said today civil servants should rest easy as the government will resolve the gulf in pay increases under the new Public Service Remuneration Scheme (SBPA).

The prime minister told reporters that Public Service Department director-general Tan Sri Ismail Adam was leading a committee that was reviewing the scheme with Cuepacs, the umbrella labour centre for government servants.

"Don't worry about that," Najib (picture) said when quizzed about the SBPA which would see top-ranking officials being paid as much as RM80,000 a month while those in lower pay grades would receive an increment as low as RM1.70.

The proposal ignited anger and disapproval in the 1.4 million civil service — a key vote bank for the ruling Barisan Nasional (BN) coalition — ahead of a general election that must be called by May 2013.

The Malaysian Insider understands the new pay scheme was drawn up without Cuepacs' involvement.

It is learnt that under the SBPA, 36 top-tier civil servants in the "Premier Service" category will earn a basic salary of RM36,000 per month. The Attorney-General will now earn RM80,000 while the Chief Secretary to the Government will get RM60,000 a month.

Cuepacs deputy president (I) Azih Muda confirmed the information with The Malaysian Insider, saying that the details were stated as such on the official government circular.

He said the committee, which will have up to April 16 to review the SBPA, would specifically look into the pay rise for all civil servants.

Cuepacs had previously demanded the government delay the implementation of the new pay scheme after complaining that it was not consulted on the matter.

The opposition has also criticised the government for allowing an unfair income disparity among different segments of the civil service.

The 2012 Budget allocated RM64.1 billion for the wages and pensions of government employees or 28 per cent of the entire Budget, up from RM36.9 billion five years ago.

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