

**PM vows to take extra care with SBPA review**  
**The Malaysian Insider**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 21 — Datuk Seri Najib Razak today pledged that his administration will pay special heed to the review of a controversial new civil service pay scheme, which has been criticised for introducing an enormous chasm between top and bottom-rung employees.

“The government will carefully consider the scheme so that all will be satisfied with it,” Bernama Online quoted the prime minister as saying at a civil service gathering in Kuantan today.

Yesterday, Najib told civil servants to rest easy as the government will resolve the gulf in pay increases under the new Public Service Remuneration Scheme (SBPA).

“Don’t worry about that,” Najib said yesterday 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.

Repeated objections to the new pay scheme has forced Putrajaya to institute a review even before the new structures could be implemented, with the taskforce due to complete its study by April 16.

The taskforce will be headed by former director-general of the Public Service Department Tan Sri Ismail Adam, and will include representation from the Public Service Department, Attorney-General’s Chambers, the Finance Ministry and Cuepacs.

Yesterday, The Malaysian Insider reported of rumblings within the 1.4 million-strong civil service — a key Barisan Nasional vote bank — over the glaring differences in pay packages between the upper and lower tiers of the force.

The SBPA had already run into previous objections from Cuepacs, who complained it was not consulted adequately before the scheme was rolled out.

Pakatan Rakyat lawmakers also accused Putrajaya of “bulldozing” the scheme through, and criticised it for being vague and failing to confer with stakeholders adequately.

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