

Discard silo mentality, says PM

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NEW APPROACH: Civil servants urged to work beyond 'ministry borders' to raise efficiency

PUTRAJAYA: THE old approach where civil servants worked only within the boundary of their respective ministries or agencies is no longer relevant.

They must discard the silo mentality and work with other ministries for efficiency and increased productivity, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak yesterday.

They needed to embrace the government's call as the old approach was no longer relevant.

"The old approach made civil servants territorial in their attitude by working only in their own turf. They need to change this by working beyond borders and across agencies as through this, we can produce not only higher output but also get higher outcomes," Najib, who is also Women, Family and Community Development Minister, said this at the ministry's monthly assembly here.

Najib added that this was the reason he launched the National Blue Ocean Strategy initiative through the National Blue Ocean Summit.

"It is for us to break the wall between ministries and agencies and since then, we have achieved quite a lot of successes."

He also said the Women, Family and Community Development Ministry had been given a big role to play in the National Blue Ocean Summit.

Najib expressed confidence that ministry's staff would help him in implementing the initiatives.

This was Najib's first visit to the ministry after taking over from Datuk Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, who stepped down as minister on April 8 after her three-year term as senator ended.

"Today is my first visit here. Before this, I have dealt with my deputy, Senator Heng Seai Kie, the ministry's secretary-general Datuk Dr Noorul Ainur Mohd Nur as well as other officers. I feel my work is not complete without my visit to the ministry itself."

Najib thanked Shahrizat whom he said had done a great job as minister. He said he would make sure that all projects planned by Shahrizat would continue.

On women's contributions to the country, Najib said in 2004, the percentage of women working as policy makers stood at 18.8 per cent and last year, it went up to 31.7 per cent.

He also called on ministry staff not to be too rigid in their judgements when processing aid applications.

"In coming out or drafting a policy, there is nothing like one size fits all. There must be an exception to the rule to include reality. We need to be in touch with reality so that we can help more people in need."

Najib cited a taxi driver whom he met during a visit to Sandakan.

He said the man was not eligible for aid because on paper, he had a house.

"Yet, upon further checks, the man had used all his savings to buy the house which had been transferred to his child's name.

"Now, the child no longer loves him and tried to kick him out of the house. He applied for aid because he was desperate."

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