

**Sidek to be Petronas chairman**  
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KUALA LUMPUR: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak announced the impending appointment of Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan as the chairman of Petronas last night.

He said, Sidek, whose term as chief secretary to the government ends today, would hold the position as soon as several internal matters at Petronas were resolved.

The chairman of the company is its president and chief executive officer, Datuk Shamsul Azhar Abbas.

Najib added that the appointment was in appreciation of Sidek's exemplary leadership and integrity in the public service sector.

"I'm confident that Sidek will contribute greatly to (Petronas) and enhance the relationship between Petronas and the government," he said at a dinner honouring Sidek here.

Present were the prime minister's wife Datin Seri Rosmah Mansor, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin and wife Puan Seri Noorainee Abdul Rahman and Sidek's wife, Puan Sri Wan Noorlina Wan Hussin.

Sidek was appointed as chief secretary to the government on Sept 3, 2006, with a three-time extension to date.

Datuk Seri Dr Ali Hamsa, 57, the Public-Private Partnership Unit director-general in the Prime Minister's Department, would take over as the new chief secretary to the government effective tomorrow.

In a span of six years Sidek has raised the level of public service to one which could be emulated as a global benchmark.

"During his leadership, ties between the public and private sector were strengthened, and he raised the civil service's management process by introducing the settlement of government bills within 14 days.

"The most successful transformation was the Blue Ocean Strategy, which achieved encouraging results," Najib said, expressing his confidence that for someone who has been in service for 38 years, Sidek was not one to seek personal glory, but whose contribution was evident.

Sidek said the prime minister's announcement of his appointment came as a huge surprise.

"I thought, as the chief secretary and secretary to the cabinet, there should be no secrets between us, but this announcement is a secret to me.

"I only knew about it when the prime minister announced it."

Earlier, in Putrajaya, Sidek, who clocked out from his office at 5pm for the last time, described the experience as bittersweet.

Some 500 civil servants from all ministries and government departments gathered at the Perdana Putra Complex to bid him farewell.

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