

**Almost 50 Per Cent Of Ministry's Annual Allocation Spent So Far – Rais  
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 19 (Bernama) -- The Information, Communications and Culture Ministry has spent almost 50 per cent of its RM1.7 billion allocation for administrative expenditure for this year, achieving a balance in terms of requirements and instructions, Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim said Thursday.

He said the rest of the allocation would be prudently distributed among the 18 departments and agencies of the ministry by the end of this year.

"This signifies an achievement that can be said to be balanced ... in accordance with requirements and instructions of the Treasury and Cabinet," he told reporters at the presentation of Excellence Service Awards to staff of the ministry, here.

A total of 1,018 staff from the 18 departments and agencies from all over the country received cheques for RM1,000 and certificates.

Dr Rais said the Cabinet, at its weekly meeting yesterday, welcomed the distribution of the 1Malaysia netbooks throughout the country and recommended that the practice be continued.

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