

**1,263 Kemas Supervisors Upgraded - Najib  
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SERDANG, June 2 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today announced the upgrading of posts for 1,263 supervisors of the Community Development Department (Kemas) effective July 1.

It involved a State Kemas Chief Senior Supervisor who is upgraded from S27 to S32; 178 senior supervisors from grade S22 to S27; 164 grade S17 pre-school supervisors upgraded to S27; and 920 supervisors of the various branches from grade S17 to S22.

Najib, who received loud applause when announcing the news at the Premier Gathering of Personnel from the Community Development Department in conjunction with the 'Hari Pendidik 2016' (Educators' Day 2016) at the Malaysia Agro Exposition Park Serdang (MAEPS), here today, hoped the improvement could enhance the commitment of the Kemas personnel to achieve national success.

"Hopefully, with the announcement of the upgrading as a continuous improvement process, the Kemas personnel will get a new breath of life to become more productive and competitive to strive for national success," he said.

At the function, Najib recorded his appreciation for the contributions made by the Kemas personnel especially in the interior areas.

"Whenever I go down to the interior areas, the first people I meet are the red-shirted Kemas personnel. Thank you Kemas for helping the government," he said.

The Prime Minister also described the Kemas educators as members of the front line who acted as intermediaries between the people and the government in conveying the policies of the government.

Recalling the history of Kemas which was established in 1961, Najib said his late father, Tun Abdul Razak together with Kemas members had continued the struggle to eradicate illiteracy among adults in the rural areas.

He said the illiteracy agenda had already been completed with the national literacy rate reaching 98 per cent, thus placing Malaysia among the top nations in the world in terms of the literacy rate.

Najib added that the government was assisting the process of social transformation in the rural areas in terms of income where their income must be raised in line with the country's move to achieve the developed nation status by 2020.

"We don't want to have significant rural divide in this country. Although we cannot avoid differences in incomes between the urban and rural areas, the gap must be reduced and the rural income must be raised to a much higher level," he added.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister reminded the Kemas educators to remain relevant by enhancing their capability and spirit of their struggles in carrying the trust to educate the future generation to become a knowledgeable and noble lot.

"The capability of teachers in the kindergartens and child nurseries must be more effective in efforts to develop and mould a young generation to make valuable contributions for the future of our nation," he said, adding that the Kemas personnel were national warriors.

"I want to see Kemas as the catalyst to social transformation in the rural areas so that it would continue to be perceived as a dynamic and innovative agency," he said.

Also present at the event were Rural and Regional Development Minister Datuk Seri Ismail Sabri and Kemas Director-General Datuk Hassan Mohd Amin.

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