

Sidek's motto is 'Just do it'

NST-6/9/2006

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PUTRAJAYA: Listen. Learn. Be open. Discuss. Decide. And then, just do it.

These words describe the style of the new Chief Secretary to the Government, Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan, a soft-spoken man, but one who brooks no nonsense and wants things done as soon as decisions are made.

It is a style he learnt during his 28 years at the Ministry of International Trade and Industry, and will be the culture he wants to inculcate in the civil service. More so with the Government expecting the private sector to generate economic growth.

In his first interview since being appointed to the top civil service job on Sunday, the former Miti secretary-general said he wanted to bring the openness of Miti to the rest of the civil service.

"Miti has a certain culture of getting everyone's views on board, especially the private sector, and foreign investors.

"My mission is that all Government departments will develop a culture of listening and of consulting," Sidek, 55, told the *New Straits Times* and *Berita*

Harian in his office yesterday.

He said it was necessary for the civil service to act fast once decisions were made, as delays increased the cost of doing business for the private sector and the people.

Sidek likes the Nike motto "Just do it", and while in Miti, he would send his staff emails with that single name to convey his seriousness about getting a job done.

"I will just write 'Nike' and nothing else. And they would understand immediately that I wanted them to just do it.

"Now, as Chief Secretary, I will be dealing with people at a higher level so I probably can't send emails like that anymore. But my message and meaning will be the same," Sidek said.

He said getting the job done swiftly was part of doing work with integrity. "Integrity doesn't only concern corruption, but it's how you do your job. It means giving the best you've got and doing it honestly. It means not keeping people waiting, and to facilitate, not frustrate."

When Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi introduced Sidek to staff of the Prime Minister's

Department at their monthly assembly on Monday, he described Sidek as a "bridge" between the civil service and the private sector because of his experience in Miti.

Commenting on this, Sidek said he also wanted to be a bridge-builder between the Government departments so that the entire civil service could be enhanced.

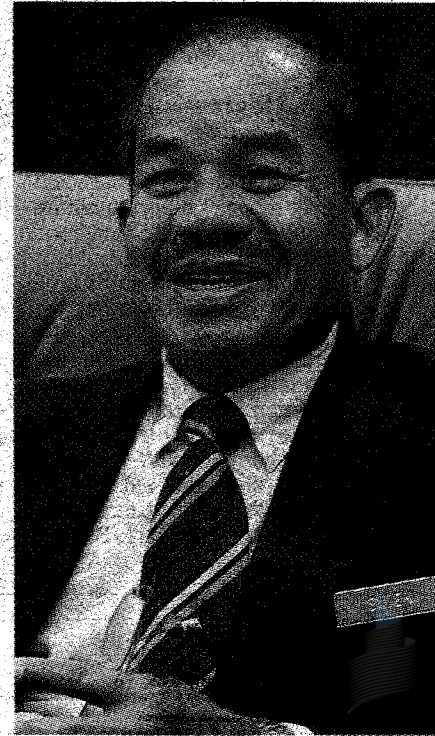
Asked to describe himself, Sidek said he preferred to keep a low profile as he believed that "public servants should be felt in the impact of their work, and not necessarily seen".

A family-man, he said despite his busy schedule he would have dinner with his family at least once a week. Sidek is married to Puan Sri Wan Noorlina Wan-Hussein and they have four children aged between 28 and 14.

A keen golfer, he is slightly worried that his new job may not afford him as much time to enjoy the game as before.

He said he owes his trim frame to watching his diet and weekly walks with his wife. "We walk for a minimum of one hour."

Sidek is the tenth of 11 children and was born in Pahang.



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