

Be bridge to better ties, Chief Sec advised

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PUTRAJAYA: Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan started his first day as Chief Secretary to the Government with a piece of advice from the Prime Minister - be the bridge to create better understanding between the public and private sectors.

Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi told the new civil service boss this while introducing him to the staff of the Prime Minister's Department at its monthly gathering here yesterday.

Also present was Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

In his short address, Abdullah said Mohd Sidek's vast experience made him well-placed for the top civil service post.

"I believe he will be able to guide the civil service well in our efforts to further boost the economy," he added.

Mohd Sidek was International Trade and Industry Ministry secretary-general prior to his elevation.

Abdullah said civil servants must use approaches "to facilitate, and not to frustrate" the private sector to spur the economy.

"Mohd Sidek has been involved in trade negotiations at international level and with his vast experience and skills, he is able to understand the issues and policies needed to be



WORDS OF WELCOME: Abdullah introducing Mohd Sidek (right) during the monthly gathering in Putrajaya yesterday as Najib and Minister in the Prime Minister's Department Datuk Dr Abdullah Md Zin (left) applaud.

implemented by the Government," he said.

"It is not that we do not have a good understanding of the private sector, we just need to have value added to improving the public delivery system."

Abdullah also reminded the civil service that although Malaysia's ranking in the global competitive index had risen, it must be further improved to be among the top 10.

"I must admit that the public

sector has worked hard and contributed to improving the ranking from 28th position to 24th," he said.

"But that is not good enough. We must be among the top 10.

"That is our benchmarking. If

we are not there, we should not be too proud with what we have achieved."

On the Budget which he tabled last week, Abdullah, who is also Finance Minister, said all sectors would benefit from it.