



Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak (left) chatting with several civil servants after he held a meeting with them in Dewan Besar Sri Mentaloon, Alor Star, yesterday. — Bernama picture

Civil servants' needs taken care of, says Najib

ALOR STAR: The deputy prime minister regrets the opposition's criticism of the civil service, whose welfare and performance are of great concern to the government.

Datuk Seri Najib Razak was referring to an opposition tabloid which had attacked the state administration of Kedah Menteri Besar Datuk Seri Mahdzir Khalid in an article early this month.

The Kedah Civil Servants Association has demanded an apology from the publisher.

"The government is always doing its best to strengthen the partnership with, and advance the welfare of the civil servants.

"When we asked government officers to improve the delivery system, the prime minister also announced a salary increase.

"And the federal government would also help the state government to cater for the increment if funds were insufficient."

Najib said the government did not make empty promises.

"But there are parties who have made several promises, which were never carried out."

Najib was speaking at a meeting with civil servants at Dewan Besar Sri Mentaloon here yesterday. In his 20-minute speech, the deputy prime minister said the allowances and salary packages

offered to civil servants were better than the private sector's.

"In terms of salaries, pensions, security of tenure and medical benefits, civil servants enjoy many perks and benefits."

Citing an example under the new salary scheme, Najib said military and police corporals could earn up to RM3,000 a month. He said the civil service was a crucial institution.

"The country's administration might be responsible for policies, programmes and projects. But it is up to the government officers and civil servants to implement the policies, programmes and projects successfully.

"It is the government's aspiration to strengthen our relationship with civil servants to ensure the country's development is achieved."

Najib said the socio-economic standards of the people of Kedah would rise with the implementation of the Northern Corridor Economic Region.

During the ceremony, Najib announced that the government had approved the development of the fourth and fifth phases of the Kulim Hi-Tech Park.

The RM410 million allocation for the project would be discussed in the government's mid-term review of the Ninth Malaysia Plan.