

More Sabahans urged to join federal civil service to boost unity

KOTA KINABALU: Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak said he hoped more Sabahans would consider joining the federal civil service, not just to create a bigger pool of Sabahans in the service, but also to strengthen national unity and integration.

This would also ensure that there was a bigger pool of locals to choose from when filling the posts of federal department heads.

He was commenting on news reports recently on Sabah leaders calling for the "Borneonisation" of federal departments and agencies in Sabah as soon as possible.

"We hope that can happen. I hope that they can see that our efforts, such as posting them to departments at federal level will give them the opportunity to advance their career and get involved in cross-fertilisation with government-linked companies."

Najib was speaking at the official opening of the National Institute of Public Administration (Wisma Intan) in Jalan Sulaman, about 20km from here, yesterday.

He said currently, of the 80 federal department posts in the state, locals

headed 37 of them.

"We encourage more Sabahans to join the Federal Civil Service to add to the pool of Sabahans and to fill up vacancies, not only at state but also at federal level. This will strengthen national integration and unity."

Yesterday, Information, Communication and Culture Minister Datuk Seri Dr Rais Yatim, said the call by United Pasokmomogun Kadazan Dusun Murut Organisation vice-president Senator Datuk Majjol Mahap to appoint qualified Sabahans as heads of federal departments and agencies was appropriate.

About 1,000 civil servants from federal departments and agencies were at the ceremony. Also present was Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Mohd Sidek Hassan and Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman.

Wisma Intan began operations in January last year.

Najib said he hoped the institute would be an exceptional human resource training centre and produce civil servants who were open to change and to improving themselves.



Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Razak being briefed by Intan director Dr Aminuddin Hassim (right) on the new Sabah Intan campus yesterday. At left is Sabah Chief Minister Datuk Seri Musa Aman. — NST picture by Datu Ruslan Sulai