

# BORNEO POST

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## Najib also wants more top federal posts for Sabahans

By Nancy Lai

**KOTA KINABALU:** Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak said he is also hoping to see more Sabahans head federal departments not only in the state but also at the central level.

"I saw in the newspapers today of the demand for more Sabahans to head the federal departments and this is what we also hope for," Najib said when opening the RM120 million National

Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) Sabah Campus in Tuaran yesterday.

Najib who touched on calls by local leaders to have more Sabahans heading the federal departments and agencies in the state, said he was informed by Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sidek Hassan that 37 of the 80 federal departments and agencies in the state were currently headed by Sabahans.

Upko vice-president Senator Datuk Maijol Mahap has called for more qualified people from Sabah be appointed heads of federal departments and agencies in the state.

He has also asked the Federal Government to fulfill other conditions under the 20-Point Agreement signed between Sabah and the Federal Government before the formation of Malaysia.

◆ See A2, Col 7

## Sabah officers must also take up posts in Putrajaya – PM

● From page one

Najib said Sabah officers must also take up posts in Putrajaya as it would give them a chance to move up the ranks as well as broaden their experience and give them more experience.

"I hope through the efforts such as posting them to departments in Kuala Lumpur, Putrajaya and getting them involved in 'cross fertilization' programs with Government-linked companies as well as encouraging more Sabahans to join the federal civil service will result in an increase in the pool of

Sabahan officers.

"This way they will have the opportunity to head not only federal departments in the state but also at the central level," he said, adding that it would help in enhancing national integration among the people of the country.

Najib also urged the civil service to keep abreast of and be open minded to new ideas and adapt to changes to be more effective in carrying out the country's agenda to become a high-income and developed nation by 2020.

"You have to be more creative and innovative. If a new initiative is

required from a department or agency, we cannot take the conventional response of asking for more staff and more budget.

"Instead, we should ask ourselves how best we can use the department's resources to meet the requirement or initiative by allocating resources to meet the new requirement and reducing allocation to the less important aspects," he added.

Najib said that the rigid bureaucratic ways cannot be used in the 21st century and there must be "flexibility of response" as it was the organizational trade of the 21st century.