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TARIKH	4 APRIL 2026 (SATURDAY)	SURATKHABAR	BH / UM / NST / TS / HM / KOSMO
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NEWS / Nation



Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar reminds department heads to ensure civil servants working from home follow the rules in line with the public service reform agenda.
BERNAMA PIC

STERN REMINDER

'GOVT STAFF ON WFH MUST MEET KPIS'

Output, productivity must be at same level, if not higher, chief secretary tells civil servants

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THE work-from-home (WFH) policy is not a licence for civil servants to lie down, sit and rest. This was the stern reminder from Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Shamsul Azri Abu Bakar ahead of the implementation of WFH arrangements for civil servants from April 15.

Shamsul Azri, as quoted by Bernama, reminded department heads to ensure staff working from home followed the rules and met key performance indicators.

He said the move was in line with the public service reform agenda, which emphasises productivity.

"In response to economic pressures, the cabinet agreed on April 1 to implement the WFH policy from April 15.

"However, there should be no misunderstanding. WFH does not mean *baring, duduk, rehat* (lying down, sitting and resting) or *beli-belah di pasar raya* (shopping at the supermarket).
"It must follow rules, with out-

put and productivity maintained at the same level, if not higher, than in-office work," he said at the Selangor-level Taat Setia Madani Road Tour at Dewan Raja Muda Musa here yesterday.

On Thursday, the government announced a three-day WFH arrangement for civil servants amid the global energy crisis sparked by the conflict in the Middle East.

According to a circular from Public Service Department (PSD) director-general Tan Sri Wan Ahmad Dahlan Abdul Aziz, the arrangement applies to civil servants in the federal and state public service, as well as statutory bodies and local authorities.

Shamsul Azri said civil servants must set an example by not only carrying out instructions, but also ensuring effective implementation.

In line with a directive by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Anwar Ibrahim, he called for a culture of prudence across all departments.

"In the office, if lights and fans are not in use, switch them off. Air-conditioning should be set at an appropriate temperature. Meetings can be conducted online to reduce travel costs and paper use.

"Avoid wastage and unless necessary, refrain from buying luxury assets for office use, except for safety or public interest reasons."

Shamsul Azri said the government was reducing official overseas visits to cut costs, in line with current decisions.

He said the decision not to hold Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations at the national or state level was not

meant to dampen the festive spirit, but to promote moderation and consideration for those less fortunate, including those in Gaza.

At a separate event, Communications Minister Datuk Fahmi Fadzil called on the Malaysian Media Council to hold discussions with local media companies and organisations to gather feedback on the implementation of WFH arrangements for the sector.

He said the ministry's top priority in any decision on the policy was to safeguard the welfare of media personnel nationwide.

"I will ask the Information Department to take the necessary measures, including gathering public feedback.

"Any further considerations will be forwarded to the PSD director-general and communicated to the cabinet and ministry."

In **George Town**, Chief Minister Chow Kon Yeow said the Penang government would deliberate on the WFH guidelines.

He said the matter was raised at the recent meeting of menteri besar and chief ministers.

"The state government will refine and discuss the WFH guidelines to be implemented by the federal government.

"The matter will be brought to the State Executive Council meeting next Wednesday," he said yesterday.

He said the WFH policy currently involved federal agencies only.

"However, if it is extended to the state and other agencies, it will be subject to guidelines."