70 interns set to start stint today

They will begin work as aides to govt ministers under inaugural Perdana Fellows Programme

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PUTRAJAYA: Seventy young Malaysians will begin their stint as aides to Federal Government ministers today.

The interns were selected under the inaugural Perdana Fellows Programme, which is a brainchild of Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak to nurture future leaders in the administration.

Amirah Amir, 22, was star-struck when told that she would be working under Urban Wellbeing, Housing and Local Government Minister Datuk Abdul Rahman Dahlan.

A King’s College of London graduate in war, theology and religious studies, Amirah has a fascination for policy making and international relations.

“I have never met him (Abdul Rahman) in person before but I am very excited to meet my new boss soon.

“I follow him on Twitter and my impression of him is that he is a reformist who is young and vocal about his thoughts. He is an asset to the Barisan Nasional Government,” she gushed.

Samuel Sla Matthew Unjah, 25, is looking forward to contributing his thoughts on bridging the development gap in Sabah and Sarawak.

“This programme is my opportunity to contribute to Malaysia by giving ideas on how to build the country towards Vision 2020, especially for Sabah and Sarawak, where development is slower compared to the peninsula,” said Samuel, who is from Saratok, a district under the Betong division where his mentor, Plantation Industries and Commodities Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Uggah Embas, is the elected representative.

Environmental science undergraduate Eugene Tan Terk Han, 20, is passionate about the wellbeing of nature, and looks forward to his stint under Energy, Green Technology and Water Minister Datuk Seri Dr Maximus Ongkili.

“I enjoy nature so much that I feel it is necessary to take care of it,” said Tan, a third-year student at the Colorado College of the United States.

Final-year student R. Shree Sutharsana, 23, vowed to give her best in her tenure to assist Domestic Trade, Cooperatives and Consumerism Minister Datuk Hasan Malek.

“I am passionate about championing the rights of others, especially women, but under this ministry, I will do all I can to learn about issues under its purview, such as consumer and intellectual property rights,” said Shree, who is in the final year of a bachelor’s degree in government and public policy at Universiti Tun Abdul Razak.
Raring for action: Youth and Sports Minister Khairy Jamaluddin posing for a picture with participants of the Perdana Fellows Programme.