



Minister of Labour and Social Inclusion, Bjarne Håkon Hansen, at the Sámediggi, autumn 2005, guided by Aili Keskitalo, newly elected President of the Sámediggi. PHOTO: MIN ÁIGI.

## Sámi issues in central administration in Norway

THE DEPARTMENT OF SÁMI AND MINORITY AFFAIRS in the Ministry of Labour and Social Inclusion has the main responsibility for developing and maintaining an overall governmental policy towards the Sámis. The Department is the central administrative and coordinating organ concerning Sámi issues. As such, it also serves as the Secretariat for a separate inter-ministerial coordinating organ for Sámi issues.

The Department works to make conditions favourable for the Sámis for further development and strengthening of their culture, language, and industrial and community life, which also includes developing contacts and dialogues between the Government and the Sámediggi (Sámi Parliament). The Department is also responsible for co-ordination of the Government's cooperation with the other Nordic States concerning Sámi issues. It also participates in the development of Norway's international positions on indigenous people's affairs.

The Government and the Sámediggi have jointly developed procedures for when and how consultations between Norwegian authorities and the Sámediggi shall be carried out. Such consultations shall take place when the issue concerned can directly affect Sámi interests. As of January 2006, detailed guidelines are being prepared dealing with how the consultation procedures can be implemented in a practical way.

[www.dep.no/aid/](http://www.dep.no/aid/)

[www.samediggi.no](http://www.samediggi.no)

[www.galdu.org](http://www.galdu.org)

The Sámi People – a Handbook, Karasjok 2006.