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Reminder to be impartial

PROFESSIONALISM has to be the order of the day if there is to be integrity, efficiency and development.

This translates into providing impartial service and being accountable to the public.

For the public sector, it means minimising grievances and delays in the course of dealing with the people. This will certainly enhance efficiency which helps to reduce costs for both the bureaucracy and the parties needing their services.

By extension, the 800,000 public sector employees are partners in the Malaysia Incorporated concept. This is a symbiotic relationship which benefits the Government if the private sector does well as it collects corporate taxes from it.

Ironically, it is also a relationship which can expose the sector to accusations, and the possibility, of graft. This cannot be condoned. For any "unofficial" nexus between high-level bureaucrats and other parties which deign even to think of corruption will cast aspersions of impropriety on the administration.

Professionalism will ensure impartial service which will help maintain integrity in the Government.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad's reminder to civil servants to remain non-partisan is timely, more so when the economy is improving and has to be on the cutting edge of competition to stand tall among other countries in a global village.

Lauding Government servants for their commendable record of performance, he expressed confidence they would upkeep the tradition of professionalism.

This is vital as the public service is part of the administration which plans to make Malaysia a developed nation by 2020.

Touching base with information technology and sieving information to suit our needs is pertinent for them as this will improve productivity and efficiency in an increasingly knowledge-based economy.

The sector has to respond to the changing needs of the times. It is a permanent wing of the Government which exists to serve the rakyat's interest. The basic tenet is that the people have given the mandate to the Government of the day to formulate policies for their benefit. In turn, the civil service is directed to implement these policies.

This is a responsibility it has to shoulder, and bear well, for its independence is integral to public trust in the sector and the Government as well.

On its part, the Government has planned well, wisely managed its financial resources and prioritised spending. The country's gross domestic product has improved tremendously in the last three quarters of the year.

To ensure the good times continue to roll in, discipline, efficiency, productivity and smart tapping of resources both within and beyond our borders have to reign supreme. It does not portend well for the country if these attributes are not present at all times.

As globalisation permeates every corner of the world, the public service will also have to be cognizant of both the benefits and threats that emanate from the trend.

In the wake of this, it is crucial that Malaysia continues to preserve its internal strength which stems from stability and an inherent

confidence in our own capabilities.

And the civil service continues to have a role in the management of the country's affairs as it is there to serve the public.

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