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Jamaluddin-Civil

CIVIL SERVANTS HAVE A VITAL ROLE IN ENHANCING NATION'S GROWTH

KUALA LUMPUR, June 28 (Bernama) -- Civil servants have a vital role to play to make a success of the new strategies drawn up to stimulate the country's economy, Second Finance Minister Datuk Dr Jamaluddin Jarjis said today.

Efforts to enhance Malaysia's competitiveness and delivery system were very much related to the civil sector, he told reporters after delivering a speech on "Enhancing The Delivery Systems And Mechanisms: The Way Forward" at the National Institute of Public Administration (INTAN) here.

These efforts were among the more than 90 strategies unveiled by Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad last month to boost the country's economic growth amidst global uncertainties.

"Every level of the government plays a critical role in the delivery system, from federal to state, local authorities and districts," Jamaluddin said.

He said, for example, fast approval of building plans (BP) and issuance of certificate of fitness for occupation (CFO) would have a cyclical effect on the economy.

"When the BP or CFO is issued faster, the buyer gets the home faster, while the contractors and developers also get paid faster. So, there would be some impact on the economy; there would be a cycle of cash movement," he said.

In return, he said, civil servants benefited from the bonus that the government would be able to pay when the economy prospered.

"When the economy moves, the government will make money out of the tax and enhance its cash position ... the government will be able to pay bonuses to the civil servants," he said.

Jamaluddin said an effective civil service would also help the country attract foreign direct investment (FDIs).

Meanwhile, Public Service Department (PSD) Director-General Tan Sri Jamaluddin Ahmad Damanhuri said all state and federal departments had been asked to submit their staff requirements under the Sistem Saraan Malaysia (SSM) remuneration scheme.

"This is only one of the reasons given," he said when asked on complaints that government departments were unable to process documents fast due to lack of employees.

"We also do not want to hear that some work was delayed because of staff shortage. We can approve (new) posts but you must take into consideration the training period; it takes time," he said.

However, he said government departments should also optimise their capabilities with the current capacity.

-- BERNAMA

SM SM YBY