



PERDANA LIBRARY
PERDANA LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION
NEWSPAPER CLIPPING

Newspaper	The Sun
Date	24/6/2011

Don: Country lacks good administrators

PETALING JAVA: Malaysia lacks "good personalities" to administer the current policies and systems in the country, said UiTM Professor Datuk Dr Shad Saleem Faruqi.

"The government keeps spending money to improve the structures and processes in the system but pays no heed in getting the right people to administer them," he said in his talk on 'Public Sector Governance as a Catalyst for National Growth and Progress' at the Perdana Leadership Foundation Forum 2011 yesterday.

"The public sector is in need of structural and psychological overhaul in some areas," Shad Saleem said adding that it is too unbalanced racially and lacks openness and transparency in its decisions.

He said good governance requires effective public sector management, proper hierarchies and effective delivery of public services.

"(However) Sorry to say that the systems in our country are as good as the people who administer them. We have good systems but we do not have good personalities to administer them," Shad Saleem said.

He said the inconscionable delays in administrative delivery has become a challenge for national growth and public services progress.

"The absence of an independent ombudsman, a Freedom of Information Act and the non-representative character of all local authorities do not gel with the ideal of a government that is responsible to the people, and responsive to the felt necessities of the times," he said.

"A problem quite peculiar to Malaysia is how statutory bodies, including universities are subject to crippling control of civil servants," he said.

Shad Saleem, who is a constitutional expert, said that in the theory of administrative law, statutory bodies should be given operational autonomy while enforcing social responsibility.

"Despite what the law says explicitly, and despite ministerial assurance, university autonomy in this country is a two-decade old, unfulfilled dream. Civil service control over universities and statutory bodies is both illegal and undesirable in the light of new imperatives of globalised education," Shad Saleem said.

He said taming bureaucracy, cutting red tapes and unshackling statutory bodies are factors in enhancing public sector governance. Shad Saleem said that these factors can only be put in place if there are leaders who are prepared to take risks to lead the country.