

Civil service job cuts show Najib's hypocrisy, says Pua
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By Shannon Teoh

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec 8 — Tony Pua accused Datuk Seri Najib Razak today of hypocrisy after his administration announced 29,000 redundancies in the civil service just days after the prime minister attacked Pakatan Rakyat (PR) for wanting to "halve the civil service."

The DAP publicity chief said this showed the Umno president and his party leaders were being political opportunists in portraying the federal opposition as anti-civil service, launching repeated attacks against Pua for raising the issue of downsizing the 1.4 million-strong public service.

"The prime minister has the cheek to inflame racial sentiments among the Malays by accusing the opposition of wanting to trim the civil service when it is the Barisan Nasional (BN) government who will chop 29,000 civil servants starting next year

"Najib has proven himself to be a hypocrite of the highest degree," the Petaling Jaya Utara MP said in a statement today.

The Public Service Department (PSD) said yesterday that the New Civil Service Remuneration Scheme (SBPA) would see 29,000 positions cut in a "right-sizing" exercise and an "exit policy" for underperforming employees.

This came just two days after Najib had accused PR of having plans to cut the majority-Malay civil service by half when addressing Malay NGO Pertubuhan Kebajikan dan Dakwah Islamiah Malaysia (Pekida).

It was the latest in attacks from BN leaders against PR after Pua raised the possibility of shrinking the civil service if the opposition pact took federal power.

But the PR leadership later clarified that it would cut costs by making the mainly Malay civil service more efficient instead.

Pua clarified today that PR has never proposed to halve the civil service and that he had only suggested early retirement and the sacking of those who had breached discipline and regulations, "such as those who purchased RM1,940 binoculars for RM56,350."

He pointed out that Putrajaya's own Government Transformation Programme (GTP) and New Economic Model (NEM) called for "smaller government" and "downsizing and refocusing", respectively.

"It is Umno who is culling the civil service today and yet they had the cheek to claim that Pakatan Rakyat and myself are racists," Pua added.

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