

Pua: Umno hypocrites for calling DAP civil service plan 'racist'
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KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 8 — DAP publicity chief Tony Pua today slammed critics of his party's proposal to trim flab from the civil service for turning the matter into a racial issue.

He called Umno leaders, Utusan Malaysia and Perkasa hypocrites for calling the DAP's plan to gradually cut the number of civil servants as the prime minister himself had mooted the same plan last month.

In his Budget speech, Datuk Seri Najib Razak proposed a flexible remuneration system for civil servants based on their performance as well as an exit policy for underperforming government staff.

Chief Secretary to the Government Tan Sri Sidek Hassan also insisted later that the exit policy announced in the Budget would be strictly enforced.

"This is hypocrisy of the highest order by Umno," Pua (picture) told reporters in the Parliament lobby.

He stressed that slashing government operating expenditure was crucial as the civil service wage bill had ballooned to a projected RM64.1 billion next year from just RM30.2 billion five years ago.

"The largest and fastest rising component of the expenditure is the allocation for emoluments, pensions and gratuities," he pointed out.

Pua had previously said that the DAP would work towards progressively improving the efficiency of Malaysia's bloated civil service by terminating government staff who failed to perform once Pakatan Rakyat (PR) secures federal power.

But Deputy Science, Technology and Innovation Minister Datuk Fadillah Yusof said yesterday Putrajaya could not cut the civil service headcount as manpower was needed to implement the Government Transformation Programme (GTP).

"It's easy for DAP to talk but the Barisan Nasional government has plans which need continuity, such as the GTP, and it definitely involves civil servants," he had said.

The 2011 UN Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) noted that Malaysia has the largest civil service in the region with a civil servant to population ratio of 4.68, compared to Indonesia's 1.79, South Korea's 1.85 and Thailand's 2.06.

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