

Civil Defence Department Told To Organise Programmes To Attract More Non-Malays
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BUTTERWORTH, Jan 31 (Bernama) -- Deputy Home Minister Datuk Wira Abu Seman Yusop wants programmes to be carried out to get more non-Malays to join the Civil Defence Department as volunteers.

He said the number of non-Malay volunteers in the department was still low.

"This is voluntary work. Sometimes, there are constraints, like time or many still do not know about the department.

"Therefore, efforts have to be made to introduce the department and increase the participation of the non-Malays," he told reporters after the presentation of civil defence medals here Tuesday.

Currently, the department has 1,182 staff and 390,000 volunteers nationwide.

However, only 194,000 of the volunteers are active.

Abu Seman said that in Penang, the total of Malay volunteers totalled 14,087, compared with the Chinese at only 2,248 Chinese and Indian, 1,565 people.

He said efforts should also be carried out to educate the people on the need to maintain public order in the country.

In another development, he hoped that the proposed amendments to the Civil Defence Act would be tabled at the Parliament sitting in March.

He said the Civil Defence

Act would be amended to fine-tune the duties and jurisdiction of the Civil Defence Department.

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