

DPM: Retired civil servants still bound by secrecy
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KUALA LUMPUR: Retired civil servants are still bound by their oath against divulging sensitive Government information and may be punished under the Official Secrets Act if they are convicted of doing so, Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin warned.

He said that although former civil servants had the right and freedom to choose their political affiliation after leaving the service, they were still subjected to the agreement not to divulge information detrimental to national security or those coming under purview of the Official Secrets Act (OSA).

"Yes, they are still subjected to the oath not to divulge information after leaving the service," he told reporters this after launching the Barisan Nasional Federal Territory election machinery on Sunday.

A civil servant signs a declaration before his respective department head or state secretary not to divulge, use or hold, without authority, information which could endanger security or in breach of the OSA.

Those charged and convicted for breaching the OSA could face life imprisonment.

He said this in response to two former senior civil servants who had recently joined PAS, a member of the Pakatan Rakyat Opposition pact and a question arising whether ex-civil servants were still bounded by the OSA.

In May, Federal Criminal Investigations Department's chief Datuk Fauzi Shaari joined PAS while former Land and Cooperatives Development Ministry secretary-general Datuk Dr Nik Zain Nik Yusof handed his membership at the party's recent mass gathering in Kedah.

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