

**Government Recognises Civil Servants' Contributions, Says Muhyiddin
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PUTRAJAYA, Dec 28 (Bernama) -- Deputy Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin said Friday the government always recognised and appreciated the contributions of civil servants in helping the country to achieve success at the international level.

He said the world's recognition of Malaysia's achievements, including being ranked 10th in the 2011 Foreign Direct Investment Confidence Index, and 12th in the list of most competitive countries in doing business, was proof of the civil servants' contributions.

"The government's achievements today are mainly due to the performance of civil servants. Therefore, unlike the opposition which ridicules the contributions made by civil servants to national development, the government has always appreciated the contributions of those in the public service.

"The opposition will not recognise the country's achievements if they are not beneficial to them because recognising the achievements would mean that they recognise the success of the Barisan Nasional-led government.

"That is the opposition's strategy, to deny our achievements. They have to understand that the country's achievements are the result of the policies and cooperation with the civil servants," he told a news conference after attending an interactive session with young administrative and diplomatic officers at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre, here.

The deputy prime minister said the collaboration between the political leadership and civil servants had succeeded in producing good national policies on the economy, social service and education, as well as domestic and international services.

"Government policies are not formulated by one man working alone. They are the combination of the efforts of the political leadership and the administrative leadership. It's the combined effort that has built the strong foundation for the country today," he said.

Muhyiddin, who is also education minister, rapped the opposition for what he said was their tendency to reject proposals even if they were good and would benefit the people.

"If they are really responsible and rational, they would support good proposals and give their constructive comments on the bad ones, but this is obviously not the case for the opposition parties in Malaysia.

"That is why, for me, what they say is not important. What's important is what the people say. I believe the people are more comfortable and that they believe the Barisan Nasional government is more focused in helping them to solve their problems," he said.

In his speech earlier, Muhyiddin called on the young administrative and diplomatic officers to think outside the box to improve their efficiency to develop the public service sector and provide the best service to the people.

He said this was because the country's leaders, by thinking outside the box, had placed Malaysia among the respected countries of the world.

"Many countries want to emulate Malaysia but they lack resources, ingredients and political leadership, government and civil servants. This is the uniqueness of Malaysia that has made it so respectable.

"In the most challenging situation, Malaysia didn't just go with the flow. Leaders like former Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad always thought outside the box and came up with solutions based on the ability and efficiency of our civil servants.

"Now, many people come to Malaysia to learn from us. We have been deluged with applications and requests from foreigners to undergo joint training here," he added.

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