

**PM's Firmness to Maintain Number of Civil Servants Proves Government's Concern
- Jailani
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HULU TERENGGANU, May 4 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak's announcement that the government will not reduce the strength of the civil service in the country, which currently numbers about 1.5 million employees, reflects the government's concern for the welfare of its staff, said Deputy Communication and Multimedia Minister Datuk Jailani Johari.

He said that unlike the opposition, which wanted to get rid of half the number of civil servants if it came to power, the government was firm in believing that civil servants were the backbone of the country's development.

"Based on this recognition and hope, it is only right that civil servants continue improving themselves and doing their best in discharging their duties.

"The prime minister's firmness in this aspect is good news for all civil servants nationwide," he told reporters after opening the annual general meeting of the Terengganu branch of the Amalgamated National Union of Local Authorities Employees (Anulae) here Sunday.

Also present was Azih Muda, president of the Congress of Unions of Employees in the Public and Civil Services (Cuepacs).

Meanwhile, Azih said Malaysia's status as a developing country meant that civil servants were still highly required in various transactions.

"The current ratio of civil servants to the population in Malaysia is 1:20 while in a developed country, the ratio is 1:13. This shows that Malaysia still needs civil servants in a bid to achieve the status of a fully-developed nation," he said.

Nevertheless, he said, the pro-opposition stance displayed by some civil servants, especially in rejecting efforts taken by the government to provide various amenities for the people, would only bring about a negative impact on themselves.

So much so, he said, such a stance would also deny the rights of their colleagues who had given their undivided support to the government.

"If they are not satisfied, they should voice it out through the right channel ... through Cuepacs. We will bring it to the attention of the prime minister, who has taken into consideration many of our requests.

"Unfortunately, the actions of these few have given a (negative) perception, caused disruption and created the culture of disappointment, which, indirectly, will tarnish the government's image," he said.

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