

RMK11: SBM Wants Govt To Set Up Mechanism To Ensure 16,000 OKU Accepted In Civil Service
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KUALA LUMPUR, May 21 (Bernama) -- The government has been urged to set up a mechanism to ensure people with disability (OKU) can fill 16,000 posts in the civil service as contained in the 11th Malaysia Plan (11MP).

Malaysia Society of the Blind (SBM) President Mohammad Nazari Othman said such a mechanism was necessary because the one percent OKU involvement policy introduced in 1988 to enable OKU involvement in the job market, whether in civil service or private sector, has yet to be achieved.

"That is our worry, as to how well the 11MP target can be achieved in the five-year period (2016-2020) because even the one percent has yet to be fulfilled even after almost 30 years," he told Bernama, here today.

Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak who tabled the 11MP in Dewan Rakyat said the government was committed to achieving the participation target for OKU to fill more than 16,000 positions in the public sector through special consideration because currently only about 4,000 disabled people are employed in the public sector.

However, Mohammad Nazari said SBM believes the government has its own strategy to achieve the target to ensure more OKU are successfully elevated to higher positions in the job market.

Mohammad Nazari who suffered vision impairment due to Glaucoma since the age of 14, said to achieve the target and vision, the government must make sure facilities available at every department and agency are 'OKU Friendly'.

He said public facilities and infrastructure or physical buildings, transportation services and working equipment must be suitable for OKU so that they can enter the job market.

"For example, a vision impaired person would certainly need a computer with audio facilities, every lift in the office must have Braille, etc," he said.

Mohammad Nazari who is also a civil servant has been working as a secretary in the National Audit Department for 21 years said he was lucky to have an employer and working colleagues who understand his needs.

"Since starting my career I have already informed them of my disability and they accepted me and welcomed me after looking at the potential of my work. My friends also understood my needs and always gave me assignments that is supported by audio assistance like being the emcee at functions organised by the department," he said.

Meanwhile, an advocate for the Malaysian Association for the Blind hoped the acceptance

of OKU into the government sector would not be based on sympathy but based on their ability to perform their job.

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