

**Government Saves More Than RM721 Million Through NBOS Programme**  
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KUALA LUMPUR, July 7 (Bernama) -- The government has saved more than RM721 million in five years through various programmes and initiatives implemented under the National Blue Ocean Strategy (NBOS).

Deputy Finance Minister Datuk Chua Tee Yong said out of that total, RM711.2 million was saved in the costs of conducting conventional training patrols by the Malaysian Armed Forces (ATM) and the Royal Malaysian Police (PDRM).

"Other examples include the Community Rehabilitation Programme involving the ATM, Prisons Department, and Ministry of Agriculture and Agro-Based Industry where low-risk inmates or Supervised Persons (ODS) are given community rehabilitation training in selected army camps, saving RM10.7 million annually in the cost of ODS programmes in prisons the whole year," he told the Dewan Negara here Tuesday.

He was replying to a question from Senator Datuk Muhammad Olian Abdullah on the achievements of the NBOS, the number of agencies involved as well as how the programme avoided an overlapping of functions between agencies and the amount of savings made.

Chua said joint efforts between departments and government agencies also succeeded in breaking bureaucratic practises which affected the effectiveness of government programmes.

In fact, he said, collaborations through the NBOS could avoid overlapping of functions between government departments and agencies as well as promote better understanding of their functions.

Chua said so far, since the NBOS was launched in 2009, more than 80 government departments and agencies had implemented 78 NBOS initiatives through collaborations.

Meanwhile, he said, the achievements of NBOS programmes could also be assessed from the perspective of demand and supply such as in the implementation of the Urban Transformation Centre (UTC).

"In the first year of UTC 2013 operations, about 6.5 million people used its services, in 2014 this number went to 9.6 million people, while last year, as of last May, the number of visitors was 51 million," he said.

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