

**PM Najib Reminds PSD Scholarship Holders to Fulfil Contract, Serve the Nation**  
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PUTRAJAYA, Aug 9 (Bernama) -- Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak today reminded Public Services Department (PSD) scholarship holders to adhere to the contract of the scholarship and serve in the country after completing their studies.

He said the scholarship holders had a responsibility and played a role in the development of the country.

He said the granting of scholarship was a form of investment by the government to identify the best and excellent people to serve the nation, especially in the civil service.

"Malaysians who are given the privileges and best educational opportunities, sponsored by the government and people, have the collective responsibility to utilise and contribute their skills and talents for the benefit of the people," he said in a dialogue session with 14 graduates under the PSD scholarship program, here Tuesday.

Also present were the Director-General of Public Service Tan Sri Mohammad Zabidi Zainal and Chief Executive Officer of Talent Corporation Malaysia (TalentCorp), Shareen Shariza Abdul Ghani.

The dialogue organized by TalentCorp was attended by scholarship holders who had completed their studies at top universities in Malaysia and abroad such as in Australia, France, Korea, New Zealand, United Kingdom and the United States.

The PSD sponsored graduates were now working with top employers such as Gamuda Bhd, IBM Malaysia, iflix, Lazada Malaysia, Petronas, PwC Malaysia, Schlumberger Business Support, government agencies such as Bank Negara, Employees Provident Fund and Khazanah Nasional Bhd.

The Prime Minister also announced that the PSD had signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with TalentCorp to renew cooperation for the next five years to enhance the Scholarship Talent Attraction and Retention (STAR) initiative.

TalentCorp said in a statement that the initiative was to enable PSD-sponsored graduates who were not selected to work in the civil service to serve their scholarship contract in the private sector.

It said the STAR initiative also gave an opportunity to the JPA scholars to build their career in the major economic sectors and at the same time, participate in the transformation of the Malaysian economy.

"This way, the country will optimise the scholars' workforce by ensuring that those not required in the public sector are retained and nurtured to contribute in the major Malaysian economic sectors," he said.

Under the new MoU, the PSD and TalentCorp agreed to enhance efforts in enforcing the terms of the PSD scholarship contract to ensure that those given JPA scholarships prior to this year carried out the terms of their contract of service in Malaysia after completing their studies.

Meanwhile, Shareen said the demand for the best PSD graduates far exceeded the supply, especially scholarship holders who studied abroad.

"At the moment, there are more than 3,000 scholarship holders registered under the STAR initiative and were serving their scholarship contract with 1,700 private companies to drive the country's economic transformation.

Shareen said the six top sectors that took the scholarship holders were professional services, oil, gas and energy, financial services, electric and electronic, information and communication technology (ICT)/Global Business Services (GBS) and construction.

Besides the STAR initiative, the PSD cooperates with the Razak School of Government in the Talent Acceleration in Public Service (TAPS) program to nurture and attract the best and excellent work force among the PSD scholarship holders into the civil service.

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