

| | |
|---------|---|
| Event | Malaysian Strategic Financial Outlook Forum |
| Date | 13 March 2019 |
| Publish | The New Strait Times |

Don't transfer lousy workers, get rid of them, says think tank chief

KUALA LUMPUR: The government should get rid of civil servants who have been bringing disrepute to the service, Asian Strategy and Leadership Institute (Asli) Centre of Public Policy Studies chairman Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam said.

He said such civil servants should be retrained and if they did not show any improvement in their performance, they should be sacked after a fair consultation.

Noting that a majority of civil servants were performing well, he said there was a small fragment who were inefficient, which had caused the entire service to be viewed in a negative light.

"Get rid of the small minority who are bringing bad reputation. The majority will support the government as they don't like to be painted with the same brush," said Ramon.

He also agreed with Prime Minister Tun Dr Mahathir Mohamad's suggestion that several government departments be privatised to accommodate staff who would be removed from the civil service.

"This is a good move to reduce the bloated civil service. But be sure that we don't transfer bad

staff elsewhere.

"We can't just be pleasing the civil servants alone, but we also need to please the people.

"Why treat the 1.7 million civil servants specially when the majority of the people are suffering from their inefficiency?"

Ramon said for privatisation to be efficient, it should be done through an open-tender system.

"Do not give it to a crony and make sure their performance is monitored. If they are lacking in service or viability, expose them

and change the management.

"A major restructuring is needed in the public sector and this should not just be done on an ad-hoc basis. The major restructuring exercise must be done across the board and gradually.

"Also, don't just privatise the department and put the worst civil servants in it. That is just merely transferring a problem from one sector to another."

Yesterday, Dr Mahathir said the National Privatisation Policy introduced in 1983 was still relevant in addressing the bloated civil service. He said privatisation was being looked into to sustain jobs for former civil servants. **By**

Beatrice Nita Jay



Tan Sri Ramon Navaratnam