

Civil servants' diplomatic corps option

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PUTRAJAYA: Civil servants working in the technical sector, teaching profession, military and police can now opt for a career in the diplomatic service.

The move to enable them to join as Administrative and Diplomatic Officers (PTD) is the Government's attempt to expand the talent pool in the service, said Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak.

"This is in line with the Government's intention to recruit the best talents and brains for the public sector," he said.

Najib said the move was to hire those with certain talents to all levels and posts with appropriate remuneration and salary scheme under a "multiple entry" system.

"This means the appointments into PTD would no longer be confined to new candidates or through direct entry as current practice."

The details of the Government's new move would be spelt out in a circular later, he said, adding that benefits and perks offered would be according to what the Government could afford.

The deputy prime minister was speaking to reporters after launching the Public Service Commission's (PSC) Golden Jubilee celebration at the Putrajaya International Convention Centre here yesterday.

He also suggested the PSC conduct a study on the development of human capital for the civil service for the next 50 years.

Najib said the Government is considering offering more non-Malays scholarships for courses in local universities to boost the number of non-Malays in the civil service.

Speaking on the national stockpile on essential goods, Najib gave assurance that there would be no increase in the prices of other goods.

"The move should not aggravate prices for other goods.

"It is meant to maintain prices of non-perishable essential goods as much as possible to ensure there is adequate supply for consumers," he said.

He said the Government had yet to draw up the complete stockpile list, beyond rice and cooking oil.